

FREE

Kent on Sunday

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East Edition No 613

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Quits after U-turn on closure plans

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Brace yourself for interest hike

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Why there is more to consider than distance between field and plate

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It may be torture but watching England is getting a little better

WATCHING England in the World Cup is normally akin to spending 90 minutes tied to a chair while someone rams sharp splinters under your fingernails; it's an uncomfortable, painful experience and when it comes to an end the overriding feeling is of relief mingled with a vow never to put yourself through that torture again.

So there's a little part of me which is rather looking forward to watching the rest of what has been a fascinating tournament without having to fret about England's performance.

However, we can take a lot of pride in the side's displays so far. We look a much brighter, more attack-minded outfit, and while lacking some world class clout, in Roy Hodgson I feel our future suggests some salvation.

Which makes Roy's incredible rise from non-league football in Kent to England head



Editor **Chris Britcher**

coach, all the more remarkable. What's more it should remind everyone that if the expense of going to Premier League football is beyond them, then you never know what future big name you'll come across when you go and cheer on your local non-league team.

Roy actually manages to unite the game from top to bottom and that's something hopefully which will benefit the game going forward.

Staying on a sporting theme, Wimbledon begins on Monday, ushering in a fascinating fortnight at SW19. Inside this issue we

tackle the big issue - just what is the best Kent strawberry to enjoy while watching Andy Murray's defence of his crown? It's a guide you can't afford not to read.

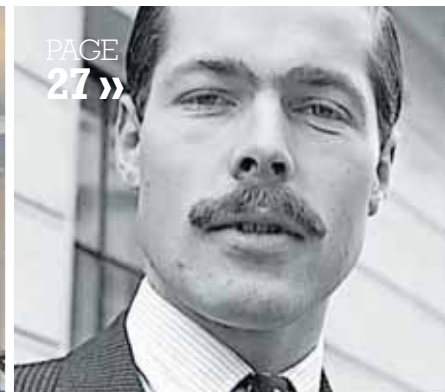
It also sits alongside a fascinating article on the food miles debate which is an eye-opener. Enjoy the sport and your weekend.



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Hospice chief falls on his sword after beds U-turn

By Chris Britcher

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TRUSTEES from the Pilgrims Hospice should consider stepping down, according to one vocal campaigner, after chief executive Steve Auty confirmed on Thursday he was to quit.

His decision comes amid one of the most controversial periods in the history of the popular hospice charity which has inpatient beds at sites in Canterbury, Ashford and Margate.

But it was the announcement it intended to phase out inpatient beds in Canterbury which sparked such a furious backlash and ultimately cost Mr Auty his job, despite the proposal ultimately being scrapped.

He had been with the charity for nine years, but will leave his post at the end of the month.

His announcement came less than a week after it confirmed the Canterbury beds would remain open beyond 2016, after a revolt by fundraisers and local people.

At one fraught public meeting, hundreds stood up and walked out in protest over the plans, which the hospice claimed was essential



STEPPING DOWN: Pilgrims Hospices CEO Steve Auty will leave his post at the end of the month

to help plug a £1 million shortfall and respond to changing demand for in-home care.

Peggy Pryer has been one of the most outspoken opponents of the closure plans.

She told KoS: "I don't think I'm surprised he went but he had no choice. He had to go.

"This gives the hospice the chance now to turn a new page after all that has happened recently. However, I would also say some of the other trustees ought to

consider their positions too. I assume the proposal to close the Canterbury beds was a corporate decision so more are responsible for all that has happened."

The manner of Mr Auty's departure will blot what was otherwise a success period in charge of the charity.

During his tenure, fund-raising has increased from £7m to £11m a year, the number of charity shops raising money for the hospice doubled, and the Hospice at Home

service was introduced.

In a statement for the hospice, it said: "Steve would like to give his heartfelt thanks to all of the staff, volunteers and supporters whose hard work and generosity have enabled all of this to happen.

"He remains passionate about the need for hospice care to be widely available to the people of east Kent both now and in the future."

The board of trustees said they gave their "heartfelt thanks" to Mr Auty.

GP confirms he's to quit after failing on all parts of watchdog inspection

THE GP at the centre of a scandal after health watchdog the Care Quality Commission (CQC) identified serious failings at his surgery, has announced he will be leaving the practice.

Dr Bijan Saha, 73, who works at the Lakeside Medical Centre in Todd Crescent, Church Milton, Sittingbourne, was found to be failing to provide adequate levels of care after he failed to meet any of the 11 standards the CQC checked during an unannounced inspection at his surgery in March this year.

It was the first time a doctor had ever failed to meet all of the required standards during one inspection.

The CQC criticised him for a variety of substandard practices with one patient reporting that Dr Saha had taken a mobile phone call from another patient during their consultation and another that he had prescribed insulin to a non-diabetic.

It said, in the aftermath of the report, it would be taking action

against the GP, although Michele Golden, head of GP inspection in the south, said that they could not "discuss the nature of that action any further at this stage for legal reasons".

As a result of the damning report, four new partners will take over the practice on June 28. Dr Saha has subsequently stepped down and will officially retire on June 29.

A spokesperson for NHS England (Kent and Medway) said: "All GP practices must provide safe, high-quality care to their patients and meet all essential standards in managing services at their surgeries.

"Dr Saha and other local GPs have written to us to confirm their intention to enter into a partnership arrangement that will provide new clinical leadership for the practice.

"We are now reviewing the full findings of the CQC report and will take any further action necessary to ensure all patients registered at the Lakeside Medical Centre receive the high standard of care they deserve."

World Cup kicks off sharp rise in domestic abuse cases

THE number of cases of domestic abuse showed a worrying – yet expected – rise last weekend after England lost 2-1 to Italy in their first World Cup.

Major football tournaments are frequently a trigger for such behaviour and police are determined to crack down hard on those committing the crime and to ensure victims know how to seek help and assistance.

Last weekend, police in Kent responded to an extra 21 reports of domestic abuse, compared to the weekend before.

Historic analysis showed it was usual for there to be a rise of up to 10 per cent during events like the tournament.

Victims should report violence to the police. To find details of the support agencies visit www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk.

Animal cruelty convictions increasing, confirms RSPCA

THE RSPCA has confirmed the number of people convicted of animal cruelty in the county is on the rise – and is second only to London in the number of cases in the south east.

The figures show that last year 65 people were convicted – up from 62 the previous 12 months.

They were released as part of the charity's Prosecution Annual Report, which highlights the

cases which the RSPCA helped to bring to court.

RSPCA superintendent for the region Paul Stilgoe said: "The UK is known as a nation of animal lovers and yet once again we have seen some truly heartbreaking sights this year, and animals suffering in horrific ways.

"We are still seeing far too many horrendous cases of cruelty."



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Relief for roads with £6m pothole repair fund

KENT County Council has been handed a further £6 million from central government coffers in its on-going fight to fix potholes on our roads.

The money is part of an emergency fund worth almost £168m set up by government after the wettest winter on record left the county's roads in tatters.

Kent's share – some £6,295,590 – is the largest slice of the funding in the south east region.

The Department for Transport has estimated that 118,000 potholes can be fixed across Kent with the money – based on a cost of £53 per filled pothole.

The Government will require KCC to publish quarterly updates on how many potholes have been filled as part of the conditions for the funding.

KCC's David Brazier said: "The roads took a battering and government has recognised this."



STILL HOPING: Manston Airport

Probe after car invades Brands Hatch track after driving through security

By Maria Chiorando

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A 21-YEAR-OLD was released earlier this week after being quizzed by police over a bizarre incident which saw a car apparently skip security to end up emerging from the pit lane on the famous Brands Hatch track in the middle of a race.

The incident took place during a race meeting at the West Kingsdown circuit last Saturday and made national headlines this week.

Not only was the bizarre sight of a road car on the circuit caught by those filming the race, but a passenger in the back of the car also captured what happened.

It was then posted on YouTube and as of Friday morning had been seen by nearly one million people.

The video appears to show the driver snaking through Brands Hatch security to find themselves in the pit lane, before entering onto the track which once hosted the British Formula One Grand Prix.



POLO: Car emerged on the track

The front seat passenger, a girl holding a pair of large pink glasses, is heard to plead with the driver to stop and appears to suggest the white VW Polo was hers. A friend in the back films it on his phone.

The car is then overtaken by competitors in the Fun Cup VW race taking place at the time. Competitors were then red flagged, telling them to stop the race after the invasion.

Race organisers, the British Racing & Sports Car Club (BRSCC), said: "During our race meeting, an unauthorised private car gained access to the circuit while the Fun Cup Championship race was in progress.

"The race was immediately red flagged and all cars left the circuit.

"Kent Police, the Motor Sports Association and circuit operators MotorSport Vision are conducting an inquiry and we are of course fully cooperating with them.

"Until the outcome of the inquiry is known the club won't be making any further comment."

On Monday, police confirmed they had arrested a 21-year-old from Tonbridge in relation to the incident, accused of false imprisonment.

He was, however, released on bail on Tuesday morning.

He will report back on July 24 pending further investigations.

Pressure on a CPO grows for shut airport

US INVESTMENT firm RiverOak has held talks with politicians and the aviation minister this week in an effort to finally secure ownership of Manston Airport.

And it appears increasing pressure is mounting on Thanet District Council to serve a compulsory purchase order on the site so it can then be sold to the US firm – despite major concerns over the use of public money to acquire a commercial operation which has repeatedly failed to prove viable.

RiverOak met with Thanet Conservative MPs Sir Roger Gale and Laura Sandys, as well as aviation minister Robert Goodwill, at the House of Commons.

Manston is currently owned by multimillionaire Ann Gloag, with fears she may opt to sell it for housing.

A joint statement by the MPs said: "It is clear RiverOak are committed in their determination to acquire Manston and operate it as an airport.

"There are, of course, obstacles to be overcome and much will depend upon the ability of Thanet council to bring a compulsory purchase order to a satisfactory conclusion."

The council is seeking legal advice over the CPO option. See facing page for more Manston news.

Broadband boost for our rural networks

HOMES and businesses in rural areas and unable to access the new generation of superfast broadband services are set for a boost after the Government announced it would be awarding almost £1 million to internet provider MLL Telecom.

It will receive £957,000 to deliver faster speeds. It intends to do so by aggregating lots of small wireless networks.

The money has come from a £10m government pot set up to take superfast broadband to the most rural parts of the UK.

In March 2013, Kent County Council announced that they were aiming to bring broadband to 90 per cent of the county by 2015.

Culture secretary Sajid Javid said: "We want to extend coverage beyond the 95 per cent of the UK we are on track to deliver by 2017."

Rural affairs minister Dan Rogerson said: "Fast and reliable broadband revolutionises everything, from how we work and play."

Major housing plans for former quarry site

REVISED plans for nearly 1,000 homes on a former chalk quarry near Dartford have been submitted.

The 870 homes will be joined by 1,200 sq m of 'retail and community infrastructure' which will include a new primary school. The development is planned for St James Pit in Stone.

Also known as Stone Pit 2, for the last 10 years the site has been filled in to provide the foundation for the proposed development.

Although that period is not yet complete, the site is sufficiently full to embark on a first phase of development. Dartford Borough Council will rule on the plans on July 9.

The scheme aims to "create a development that positively connects and integrates with the surrounding community, with an emphasis on the creation of high-quality landscape, open space, and strong pedestrian and cycle links".

These revised plans follow an application in 2008, proposing up to 1,000 homes.

Identity crooks target your rubbish bags

IDENTITY crooks are believed to have been rummaging through bin sacks in Medway, prompting police to issue a warning to take extra care with sensitive documents.

Police stepped up patrols during the week in Gillingham amid a rise in the number of bags apparently being tampered with.

Officers fear the opportunists are hoping to find documents and information to allow them to set up bogus identities and accounts in their name.

Victims in the past have found themselves with huge debts after accounts are set up in their name by the criminals.

Police say everyone should guard against such behaviour by ensuring all documents containing information such as name, address and bank details, for example, are shredded.

Theft of paper documents had been less popular in recent years, as online identity theft has been on the rise. Many fall victim by going to fake websites designed to deceive.

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Have your say on key health care reforms

YOU have until Friday to have your say on the future of community and hospital care in the county.

The issues up for discussion will form a new three-year strategy for health and social care and the public has until June 27 to make sure their voices are heard.

The priorities outlined in the strategy could lead to a significant

change in the way people are cared for, with more community-based services meaning a reduced dependence on acute hospital beds and a greater emphasis on GP surgeries, care at home and community inpatient beds.

Roger Gough, chairman of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board, and Kent County Council cabinet



member for health reform, said: "It is crucial that in all we do, we stay focused on making sure services respond to the needs of residents and communities."

See www.kent.gov.uk/health.

Flying school launches Manston legal challenge

A FLYING school based at Manston Airport is to take the Thanet airfield's owners to the High Court this week.

TG Aviation is seeking an injunction from the court to allow it to continue to use Manston as its base.

Since the airport closed last month, the firm has been forced to move to Lydd.

A spokesman for TG Aviation said: "We are a family company who have operated at the airport for more than 30 years.

"We were devastated when the airport closed, and we want to see it reopened."

The case against Kent Facilities Ltd – which owns the airport site – will begin on Friday, June 27.

...also

Riverside regeneration

MEDWAY councillors will discuss the latest updates on the Rochester Riverside masterplan following a public consultation which concluded earlier this month.

The issues will be chewed over by the council's regeneration, community and culture overview and scrutiny committee.

Weighing up the issues

THE second annual International Weight Stigma Conference is to be held at the University of Kent on Tuesday, June 24.

The conference, which brings together experts and academics from around the globe, aims to invite discussion about the social implications of being overweight.

Cashing in on property

LANDLORDS can attend a free seminar in Orpington on Wednesday aimed at helping them make the most of their buy-to-let investment.

The event takes place at the Andrews agency in the High Street between 7-8pm. Doors open at 6.30pm.

Sports centre unveiled

SPORTS minister and Maidstone MP Helen Grant will open a major new sports centre in Medway on Friday.

She will cut the ribbon at the King's Rochester Sports Centre, formerly the Stirling Centre, following its £500,000 refurbishment.

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He may not be a name familiar to many, but as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee, economist Ian McCafferty has an important influence on the UK's economy. On a recent visit to Kent, **Sarah Linney** caught up with him to find out how the Bank of England aims to guide us back to stability

AS THE economy finally shows signs of revival after one of the most prolonged slumps in history, it seems the long expected interest rate rise is fast approaching on the horizon.

And one of the nation's most senior and influential economists insists this increase will be an essential part of the economic recovery.

Any rise will be a benefit to those with savings and, perhaps more significantly, herald a price hike in mortgages for thousands across Kent.

Speaking to KoS after a whistle-stop visit to Thanet, the Bank of England's Ian McCafferty – who sits on its Monetary Policy Committee which determines the level of interest rates – says the gradual recovery seen so far looks set to continue.

He said: "There has been a strong pick up in the economy over the last 12 months, which looks set to continue into the autumn."

Prior to joining the Bank of England, Mr McCafferty had been chief economic adviser to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) for more than 10 years.

He added: "We have now had four quarters of economic growth across the country, sharp falls in unemployment and a sharp rise in the number of jobs created."

"The recovery is becoming more stable, although there are risks that might knock us off course."

"Inflation is relatively benign and over the next couple of years should be sticking close to the two per cent target for that period."

He was in Kent to address the East Kent Banking, Finance and Investment Conference – a gathering of local politicians and businesspeople to discuss economic and financial issues, organised by the Dover and Thanet chambers of commerce.

The day before, the Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, had said interest rates could rise "sooner than markets currently expect".

Many economists believe that could be as early as the end of the year.

Interest rates have been artificially low since the economy crashed in 2008. At just 0.5 per cent, they are the lowest in its history.

But while a rise would underline a renewed confidence in the economy, many say they are yet to feel any benefit, with wages so far failing to keep pace with the cost of living.

Mr McCafferty explained: "Real incomes are still being squeezed and people are not feeling a lot better off."

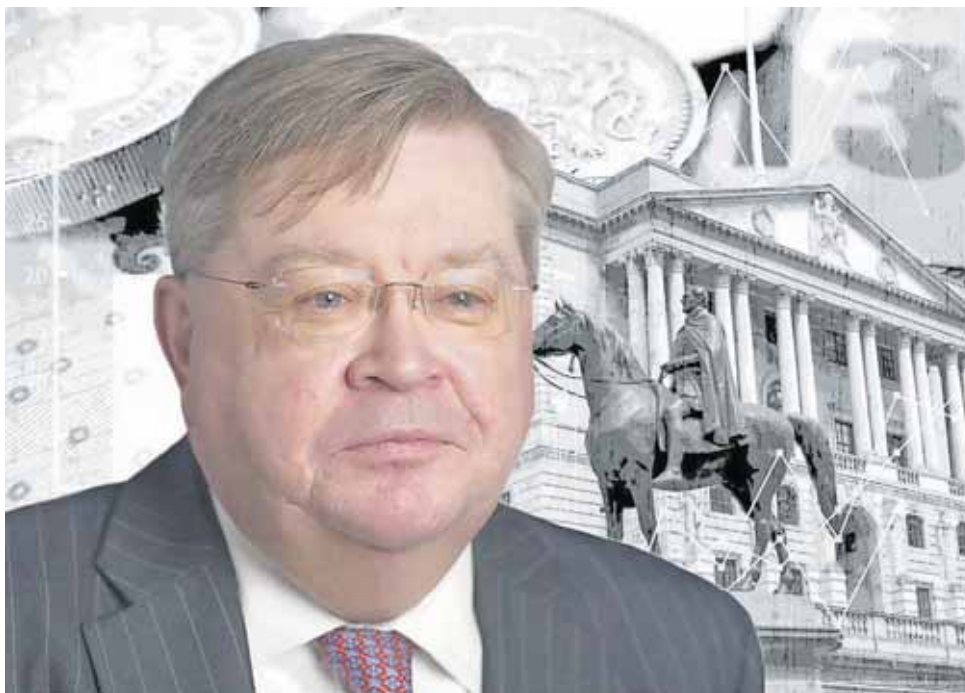
"I anticipate we will see slightly faster wage growth over the next couple of years. At the moment wage growth is roughly in line with inflation and the number of pay freezes occurring throughout the economy is declining quite rapidly."

While savers will finally start to see more of a return if interest rates rise, the rise in many people's mortgages will put further pressure on pockets.

However, Mr McCafferty says an increase is a necessary measure to stop the economy running wild.

The balancing act is to keep the economy growing, but ensure it is closely monitored and controlled to

Interest rate hike essential for recovery, says Bank of England decision-maker



HIGHS AND LOWS: Bank of England's Ian McCafferty was in east Kent to speak to politicians and businesspeople

prevent sudden growth leading to dramatic inflation and the problems that can cause.

The economist added: "As the economy strengthens, we arrive at full employment and the economy is running as fast as it is able to."

"Wages start to go up, the cost of production starts to go up, and we would be seeing inflation higher than the target."

"The interest rate is the cost of money – the higher the rate, the less people want to borrow, and the more

they want to save. So that regulates the amount of spending."

"It controls the rate of growth so the economy can grow as fast as it is able to without generating inflation. We move interest rates up and down through the economic cycle to try to deliver the right inflation rates."

He pointed out that interest rates had been artificially low during the recession, so any rise is not so much a punitive hike as a return to normal.

"Before the crisis, for about 20 years, the Bank of England base rate was about five per cent," he said.

"Where we are at now, at 0.5 per cent, is not what you would call normal and we will have to start bringing them back to a more normal level."

"But we think there are some very good reasons why for a number of years yet they will be materially lower than that."

The Government's target for inflation is two per cent.

Mr McCafferty said: "The economy functions most efficiently if inflation is low and stable."

"If we had zero inflation, some prices would be rising, so it would mean some prices were falling."

“Where we are at now, at 0.5 per cent, is not what you would call normal and we will have to start bringing them back to a more normal level”

Ian McCafferty, who sits Bank of England's monetary committee

MONEY MATTERS

THE Bank of England's interest rate is set by its Monetary Policy Committee, a group of experts in economics and financial policy.

The committee is made up of nine members: the governor, two deputy governors for monetary policy and financial stability, the chief economist, the executive director for markets, and four independent members appointed by Chancellor George Osborne.

The committee meet every month to set the interest rate. Each member has a vote to set interest rates at the level they believe is best and will allow the inflation target to be met.

Members are briefed extensively on the economy throughout the month by Bank of England staff.

A representative from the Treasury also sits with the committee at its meetings to discuss policy, although they are not allowed to vote.

Mr McCafferty has been a member of the committee since September 2012, before which he was chief economic advisor to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) for 11 years.

Previous roles include head of macroeconomics at BP, chief international economist for both Natwest Markets and Baring Securities and head of economic trends at the CBI.

He is a Fellow of the Society of Business Economists and the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce, and a graduate of Durham University.

for the housing market.

"This is designed to control the burgeoning housing market, but not to stifle it," he said.

"We may all have what we would wish for; a stable market, with modest growth. If this is achieved we will be able to plan our futures, whereas in recent years we have all had to suffer the effects of sudden boom and busts. Let's hope the governor of the Bank of England continues to have a steady hand."

"Two per cent is low enough that we are not eroding savings."

He says that an interest rate rise shouldn't happen immediately – or be dramatic when it does.

"I still think there's a bit of time – we can allow the economy to grow and unemployment to drop before it's necessary to increase interest rates," Mr McCafferty said.

"And we hope it will be only gradual."

"When it will happen very much depends on how the economy performs and whether it grows."

"What we are trying to do is control the economy, allow it to go a little further, and try to avoid disruptive and damaging increases which will be bad for businesses."

The biggest impact of an interest rate will be felt in the troubled property market.

House prices are once again on the rise, caused by so few homes going on the market – a problem caused by banks tightening their requirements on who they lend to.

Chris Doe, group manager at estate agents Simon Miller, said an interest rate rise could actually be good



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'Staycation' if you can't get passport suggests MP after jaunt to World Cup

No stranger to controversy, Maidstone MP and tourism minister Helen Grant has landed herself in hot water again after saying those in passport backlog should stay home, writes **Chris Murphy**



THOUGHTFUL?
Helen Grant's suggestion has been attacked by her many critics

SPORTS and tourism minister and Maidstone MP Helen Grant flew back into the UK on Friday after a trip to Brazil for the Fifa World Cup, and straight into a row over comments she made about the current passport fiasco.

With major delays for holidaymakers receiving their essential travel documents, Mrs Grant appeared to suggest the solution was simply to take a holiday closer to home.

Critics have rounded on her, saying it was condescending to make such comments as she had just returned from South America having watched England's defeat to Uruguay on Thursday night.

While the Tory minister's office claims she has been "stitched up", those close to her say the comments have been taken out of context by a national media keen on damage the MP's reputation.

But her comments will inflame an already delicate situation which has left many senior politicians with a headache and caused heartache for thousands of people faced with the prospect of having to cancel their trips abroad.

HM Passport Office continues to struggle with a massive backlog of documents – some 30,000 applications have still not been sorted out.

Home Secretary Theresa May has already apologised for the problems and instructed that all urgent applications are fast-tracked through the system.

The Passport Office, which has its headquarters in Liverpool, says it is dealing with the highest surge in applications in 12 years, and as a

Stitched up? You decide...

The questions posed by The House magazine to Helen Grant - and her responses - are as follows:

Q With the row going on now with the passports is that a good opportunity for you to remind people that if they are struggling to get passports they can avoid the hassle and just holiday in the UK?

HG It's about choice at the end of the day – people should do what they want.

I would have to say I grew up in Cumbria just on the edge of the Lake District and my constituency is the heart of the

Garden of England.

I'm probably biased, but I think those two areas are two jewels in a very rich crown. There's a lot to be said for the staycation I think people want to do what they like.

I think we are going to have a great summer, we are certainly going to have a great summer of sport too, there's lots of opportunities to build your holiday around a spoilt-for-choice list of events, the Tour de France Grand Depart, we've got the

golf, we've got the Commonwealth Games, we've got football that we can watch on the TV. It's a wonderful place to have your holiday.

Q So if you don't get your passport it's not the end of the world?

HG Well I'm sure you will do, I'm very confident, I have no doubt you will do. But if you don't want to go away we have some fantastic holidays here.

consequence there were backlogs.

In an interview with political magazine The House, Mrs Grant said she was confident the passports would be forthcoming, adding: "But if you don't want to go away, we have some fantastic holidays here."

"I think there's a lot to be said for the 'staycation'. People need to do what they like."

"I think we are going to have a great summer, we are certainly going to have a great summer of sport too, there's lots of opportunities to build your holiday around a spoilt-for-choice list of events, the Tour de France Grand Depart, we've got the

golf, we've got the Commonwealth Games, we've got football that we can watch on the TV. It's a wonderful place to have your holiday."

But her comments – which appear misjudged rather than ill-informed – have once again provided ammunition to her political rivals.

One of the most vocal has been Jasper Gerard, the Lib Dem parliamentary candidate who will stand against Mrs Grant for the Maidstone and the Weald seat at the 2015 General Election.

He said: "Perhaps Helen Grant should practice what she preaches."

"While Yalding recovered from

devastating floods, Helen Grant visited the Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia... twice.

"Can she tell us if she is sacrificing her foreign holiday this year out of sympathy for local people let down by the passport system?"

"Of course people want to go away – that's why they apply for passports."

The minister has a home in Marden for constituency visits, and Mr Gerard quipped: "There are indeed many wonderful places to visit in the UK, but that should be a choice for each individual."

"If Helen Grant is considering a 'staycation' this year, she would find

our beautiful Wealden villages such as Marden lovely at this time of year.

"She would discover plenty of new attractions to explore."

A spokesman for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, said Mrs Grant was merely answering a question on the subject of a staycation.

They added: "Helen Grant was crystal clear she was confident people would get their passports to be able to travel overseas."

"As tourism minister it is completely right she champions the domestic tourism market, but she was in no way linking the two issues."

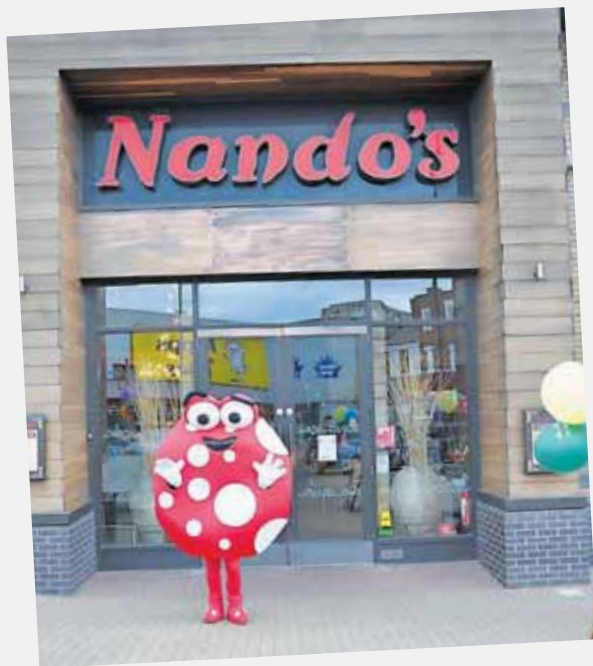
However, it is not the first time Mrs Grant has provided the opportunity to be shot at by her rivals.

She has previously been embroiled in an expenses row, a dispute over staff contracts at her office, and was left red-faced after a TV news reporter from Meridian posed a host of simple sports questions to her last year – which included who won the FA Cup and who was the England Rugby Union captain – only for her to fail on every one.

In 2010, Mrs Grant replaced Ann Widdecomb in the Maidstone constituency, fending off a challenge from the Lib Dems many expected she would lose to.

However, she won a strong majority and became the Tory's first black female MP and is favourably thought of by Prime Minister David Cameron.

■ **What do you think? Join the debate and share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smethth, Kent TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**



Dotty enjoyed a Nando's during fund-raising...



...and joined Southeastern rail staff who walked 30 miles for hospice...



...alongside wearers of silly hats



...and a charity football match

County goes Dotty for Demelza

Fund-raisers are spot on as children's hospice benefits from public's generosity. **Sarah Linney** reports

SHAVED heads, 30-mile walks and silly hats were on the agenda across Kent during Demelza children's hospice's Go Dotty week.

The charity's annual polka-dot-themed fund-raising and awareness campaign ran last week from Friday to Friday, coinciding with Children's Hospice Week, and fund-raisers were encouraged to hold dot-themed events, from cake sales to dressing up.

Some £9 million is needed every year to fund Demelza's work with children with severe disabilities or terminal illnesses.

Railway staff from Southeastern raised £5,700 through a 30-mile sponsored walk from Dartford station to London Victoria, accompanied by Demelza's corporate partnerships manager Donna Wells.

Birchington singing group Blend sang non-stop for 16 hours. Deal Town Football Club held a fun day and played a charity match against the hospice, and a sponsored Bokwa

exercise class in Bobbing village hall, with participants dressed in red and white or dots, raised £100.

Staff at the hospice in Bobbing, near Sittingbourne, held a dotty hat competition, Demelza's charity shops put up dotty window displays, and Herne Bay shop manager Sue Smy and Sittingbourne volunteer Kim Goodwill shaved their heads.

Demelza's mascot, Dotty, travelled around Kent to visit fund-raisers and supporters, including Nando's in Bromley, which held a dotty day, and the Kent on Sunday offices.

Natwest Bank and Charlton Football Club also took part, while high-street bakers Greggs had a dotty cookie on sale.

The hospice provides respite care for children and their families, at-home care and end-of-life care and support for families who have lost a child.

As well as 10 children's bedrooms, and family accommodation, the hospice has a music room, an art

room, a multi-sensory room, a computer room, a swimming pool, a soft play area and six acres of grounds and playgrounds.

There is also a six-bedroom hospice in Eltham, south London.

At any one time, the charity is helping about 800 families – yet, apart from a small amount of government funding, it has to raise almost all its money itself.

Natalie Tegg, Demelza's head of partnerships, said: "We are so grateful to everyone who has embraced the polka dot this year to support the hospice."

"Our Go Dotty campaign is a very simple way for anyone to support us, from a school to a corporate."

"Every donation, big or small, really does make a difference to the work we can do with families across Kent, south-east London and East Sussex."

■ **For more information or to donate, visit www.demelza.org.uk. You can also donate £3 by texting DOTT12 £3 to 70070.**

COOKBOOK HAS STAR INGREDIENT

A CELEBRITY chef, a radio presenter and a former pop star are among the contributors to Demelza's first cookbook.

Come Dine with Demelza features recipes from TV chef Richard Phillips, who runs three restaurants in the county including Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells; Capital FM presenter Dave Berry, who opened the hospice's play area; Bucks Fizz star Cheryl Baker, who lives in Tunbridge Wells; and Dancing on Ice head judge Robin Cousins, along with staff, volunteers, supporters and young people from the hospice.

Mr Phillips, who has appeared on Ready Steady Cook and Saturday Kitchen and has written the foreword, launched the book at his newest restaurant, The

Windmill in Hollingbourne, on Thursday.

The book is being sold in the charity's shops and through its fund-raising department to raise money for the hospice.

Mr Phillips, a former head chef for Marco Pierre White, said: "Whether you are cooking for a crowd or simply looking for inspiration for the family supper, you will find plenty of great ideas and delicious dishes in this recipe book."

"Your purchase helps Demelza to reach even more life-limited and life-threatened children and their families."

To buy a copy of the book for a suggested donation of £5, visit the hospice or one of its shops or call 01795 845288.

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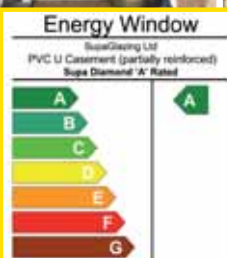
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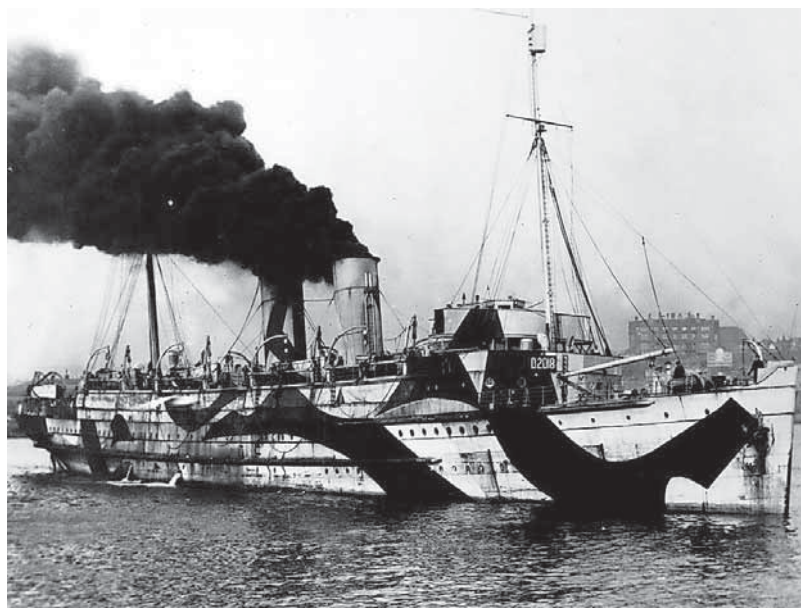
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Soldiers, spies and suffering in the Great War recalled

Exhibitions highlight port's past as exit for troops and entry for poor refugees, writes **Chris Murphy**



AS the world this year marks the centenary of the start of the First World War, it is often easy to overlook the pivotal role played by one of the county's coastal towns during the conflict.

For many thousands of soldiers, Folkestone would be where they last stood upon British soil before they made the ultimate sacrifice on the killing fields of northern France and Belgium.

It was from there that boats would carry them across the Channel en route to the hell of the trenches.

But it wasn't all one-way traffic. The town also saw troops from around the world stationed there; it also provided a safe haven to refugees from Belgium who fled the invasion and bloodshed of their nation.

Now, 100 years later, two special exhibitions are being staged to capture some remarkable moments in time.

Folkestone in the Great War will include artefacts as well as photographs and has been organised by the Step Short educational charity in association with Folkestone Camera Club and the Folkestone and District Local History Society.

Other topics it will cover include the role of the harbour during the conflict, Shorncliffe Camp, spies and the infamous bombing raid on Tontine Street on May 25, 1917,

which left 61 dead and many more wounded.

The event will be held in the Sassoon Room at the town's library and complement the National Army Museum's major exhibition in the town hall - Your Country Calls - Enlistment to Embarkation.

Peter Bamford, a founding member of Folkestone and District Local History Society, said: "The reason we're putting on the exhibition is to show people how the war affected the residents of Folkestone and the surrounding area at a local, rather than national, level.

"The exhibition will cover the arrival of the Belgian refugees in 1914 and how the local people welcomed them into their homes and set up organisations to care for their needs and show how the Belgians themselves contributed to the local area.

"Along with the battalions of regular soldiers already stationed at Shorncliffe Camp, accommodation had to be found for others arriving in the town. Many large houses and hotels were requisitioned by the authorities to house these men and many local residents had to take in soldiers as they were billeted upon them.

"With the arrival of the reservists, territorials, Kitchener's Volunteers and in 1915 the Canadians, many new camps appeared, including the hutments at Sandling and St



Seaforth Highlanders, Shorncliffe Camp



BUSY DAYS:
Folkestone was the point of embarkation for troops and a gateway for refugees fleeing from Belgium



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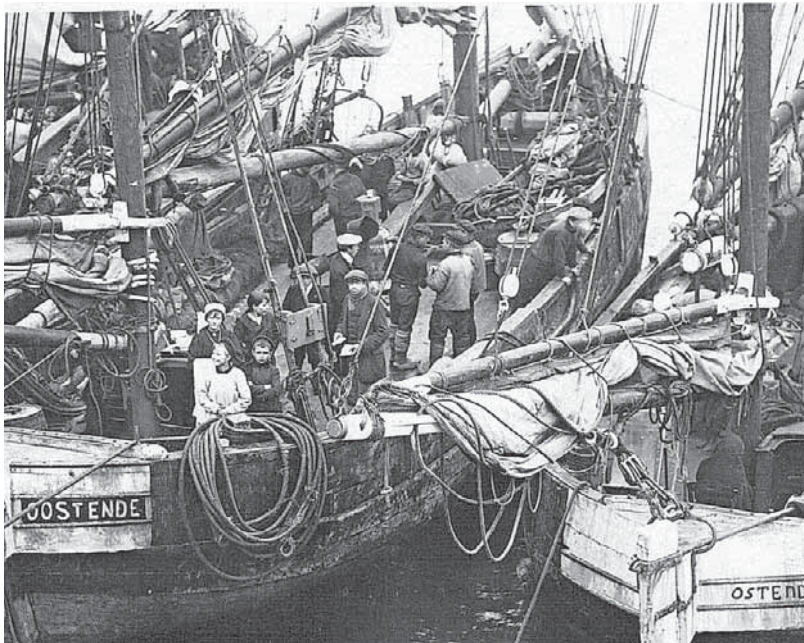
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REFUGEES: Folkestone provided a safe haven as families fled from Belgium and the fighting

« PAGE 14

Martin's Plain and tented camps at Otterpool, Westenhangar, Dibgate and Park Farm below Caesar's Camp.

"As the war went on, it soon became obvious that a holding area was required to house soldiers waiting to embark from Folkestone Harbour to France.

"These became known as rest camps and consisted of whole areas, including many streets, surrounded by a large corrugated fence. Soldiers would be kept at these locations until it was safe to cross the Channel and made full use

of the large houses within the camp to sleep and rest."

The extensive display show also covers some of the local men and women who served during the war and who died on active service.

There are photos of war memorials that were erected around the town in churches, schools and clubs, all listing those who served and who made the supreme sacrifice.

Paul Emden, treasurer of Step Short, said the library show has been a year in the making.

He told us: "The exhibition will consist of up to 1,000 photos of the Great War, many of which are from unseen private collections.

"Folkestone Camera Club has produced a wonderful step back to the past with an audio-visual film that gives an insight to the history of the many buildings that played an important role during the war and still survive today.

"There will also be a rare selection of artefacts on loan from local collectors.

"The exhibition will run alongside the National Army Museum exhibition at the town hall and will give visitors a great day out by visiting both exhibitions, which are only a few minutes' walk from one another and both supported by Step Short."

Vince Williams, of Folkestone and District Lo-

cal History Society, said: "We had been proposing an exhibition to commemorate the start of the First World War for a couple of years but had never put on an exhibition of this size before, so they invited other local groups to come on board with the project.

"The displays have been put together by members of the local history society as between them they have probably the largest collections of photographs on Folkestone during the war."

The exhibition at the town hall runs from June 24 to May 8 next year and is free.

The photographic exhibition is in the Sassoon Room, Folkestone Library, Grace Hill, on July 7.

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The myth of food miles... is it just a 'busted flush'?



At a time when cheap imported food threatened home producers, encouraging consumers to buy locally and reduce 'food miles' seemed the right thing to do, but focusing on the possible benefits to the environment is now seen by many as a mistake, as **Maria Chiorando** reports...

REDUCING food miles was supposed to be the answer to a number of challenges.

Championed amid a sea of cheap imports – supporting and buying local under the banner of 'fewer food miles' seemed ideal. It was the marketing slogan under which we changed our shopping habits as we sought to support our local economy while enjoying more nutrients per pound too courtesy of the added freshness.

But there is a growing school of thought that perhaps it's not quite all it's cracked up to be; that the production methods employed actually undermine the short journeys food makes from field to plate.

In short, that trying to sell the argument on benefits to the environment are, at best, often misjudged, and at worse, simply misleading.

Andrew Ferne is a professor of food marketing at the Kent Business School at the University of Kent.

He is one of those feeling that less isn't necessarily more, describing it as "a bad marketing ploy". He explains: "The food miles argument is simplistic and is largely a 'busted flush'."

"It takes no account of the method of production, which accounts for much more of the embedded energy in food than transportation."

Yet shopping locally makes sound common-

PAGE 20 »



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sense – enhancing a sense of community and ensuring the pound in your pocket multiplies as it travels back into the local economy. Critics, however, say while that's not open to debate, playing the 'better for the environment' trump card is.

Produced in Kent is the organisation set up to champion local food and drink. Unsurprisingly, it remains committed to the benefits of home grown produce.

Explains spokesman Joanna Gurr: "We feel strongly that it's always better to buy locally. It's better for the economy, and the food is fresher, so it tastes better."

Adds Kevin Attwood, farmer and chairman of the Kent Agricultural Society: "I think the greatest joy of buying local is that you know what you're buying, it's a known provenance."

"You may even know the producer."

All good, sound arguments. Yet the food miles debate hinges on the idea that if a food is grown locally, then it is better for the environment as it has not had to travel many miles from field to plate.

Explains Dr Howard Lee, sustainability champion at Hadlow College: "Food miles are a very useful tool for measuring the distance food has been moved from point A to B."

"Some people use food miles to help in choosing food."

But how compelling is the environmental argument of the food mile debate, and is it the key reason the message is pushed to consumers?

THE FACTS: JUST WHAT ARE FOOD MILES?

IN short, it's the distance food travels from its point of production to the end consumer.

The term was first coined back in 1994 by Professor Tim Lang at the Sustainable Agriculture Food and Environment Alliance, and appeared in The Food Miles Report: The Dangers of Long-Distance Food Transport, written by Angela Paxton.

It sparked the whole debate over the distances travelled by food stuffs to create key products and the subsequent impact that has on the environment.

Quickly adopted by the green movement, it inspired many to re-evaluate their groceries and make decisions based on a perceived benefit to the environment.

In the UK, a report in 2011 revealed that agricultural-related greenhouse gas emissions accounted for approximately 40 per cent of the overall food chain – which includes packaging, marketing and retail. In comparison, the transportation of the goods accounted for 12 per cent.

As a consequence, the debate over the benefits of



'food miles' as a marketing method has been brought into question.

The arguments are wide and varied and encompass the vast majority of food production aspects.

Professor Ferne is far from convinced. He says: "Food miles is a marketing ploy and a bad one."

"People are much more interested in safety, taste, freshness and supporting their local farmers than they are in preserving the planet."

"And those are far stronger reasons for buying local food than talking about how it's travelled a fraction of the distance."

"It's stupid, don't do it, don't talk about food miles."

"The reason people do it is because it's easy, and it's a message that can be communicated very easily."

Stefano Cuomo runs Macknade Fine Foods from its headquarters in Faversham.

He fears the food miles argument is a muddled one. He says: "We've moved beyond this a bit now, but unfortunately we have had some consumers who were buying local above whether it was a good product or not, because a product was advertised as having low food miles."

"It's annoying when we come across producers who don't make a particularly good product, but because it's local they think everyone close to them will buy it."

"The market is adjusting itself but it is about quality, and if you can buy quality on your doorstep at a sensible price, then yes, you should do that."

"From my point of view, the quality is a key part of it."

"If you look at a product such as jam, for example, people think it's easy to make. So we have had people come to us wanting us to sell locally made jam that's poor quality."

"If it's not a good product, it's not a good product, and shouldn't be bought just because it's local."

"You have many excellent local producers, but the message can be muddled by a weaker product."

Another issue that comes into play is the complexity of the modern food distribution chain.

While suppliers can claim the distance between a farm and an outlet is the food miles total of a particular

food, this may not paint an accurate picture.

Explains Professor Ferne: "If you think about whether it's lambs from New Romney, or strawberries from Canterbury, if the farm produces the product, then it has to get distributed to who knows how many outlets in a van. And that is incredibly inefficient both environmentally and economically."

"This could add up to a round trip of 50, 60, even 100 miles."

"Just because the farm is local, distributing all of that produce locally and beyond means that the sum total of the environmental friendliness of the production is nothing like as beneficial as people would imagine."

"And the normal punter does not want to think about that complexity, so it's very easy and simple to say, 'oh, it's local, fewer food miles means better for the environment'. That's bad reasoning."

"In addition, food that has travelled many miles could have been air freight, which is an increasingly cost-effective and environmentally-friendly way to transport food."

If carbon emissions are at the heart of the environmental concern, then the full foot print of the product should be looked at, and not just the carbon emissions of the transportation.

Professor Ferne adds: "Now we know that the majority of energy embedded in the majority of foods originates in primary production."

"So if we think about the carbon footprint of most food products of any description, most of the energy comes from primary production."

"Now obviously if you get a baked or cooked product, or ready meals,

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loads of the energy is going to be embedded in the processing.

"That means the transportation part of the carbon energies embedded in the product is really quite small."

Farmer Kevin Attwood of the Kent Agricultural Society agrees there are fine lines to be drawn.

He explains: "It's very difficult to make any sweeping statements, and you must be specific in what type of produce you are referring to when discussing it in terms of food miles.

"For example, many types of salad vegetables can be grown in other countries without extra heating."

There is an argument that because of the additional heat needed in the production of British tomatoes, due to our colder climes, the carbon footprint of growing tomatoes in Spain, then transporting them to the UK, is lower than growing them in the UK.

"That is largely true," agrees Mr Attwood. "But even then there is the additional complication of Spain's finite water supplies.

"We have much more water available for growing produce in the UK. This is a complicated discussion, and there is no straight forward argument."

Certainly no-one is suggesting we all stop buying local.

The issue is more an ethical dilemma over the use of the term food miles and the perceived benefits.

For example, in an increasingly global world, does the wealthier west have responsibility to support the economy of struggling countries by importing their goods?

The burgeoning fair trade market, which includes products such as coffee,



Food miles is a marketing ploy and a bad one. People are much more interested in safety, taste, freshness and supporting their local farmers...

Andrew Ferne, (pictured above), professor of food marketing

fee, chocolate and bananas seeks to aid countries from continents such as Africa and Asia.

Stefano Cuomo, from Macknade, explains: "You have to work out the bigger picture of the impact.

"Look, for example, at coffee beans. What's the impact of transporting coffee beans from Africa?

"Ok, it may be significant from a fuel point of view, but actually the positive aspect that can be applied to the farmer who's grown the beans that may not have a market in Africa

means you have to consider the impact differently."

Produced in Kent's Joanna Gurr adds: "Although it is good to buy local produce when possible, we would never dream of telling people they couldn't buy things.

"If there is something that isn't grown locally, of course a consumer will have to look further afield. It's a case here of awareness being key."

Food waste is also worth considering in the debate about transporting produce over large distances.

Explains Mr Attwood: "We export a surplus of food. This is generally rapeseed and wheat.

"It is very important to note that we don't have a surplus every year, but often we do have more than we need, and that can be sent abroad."

This means that this surplus will clock up miles as it travels to foreign markets.

The alternative to this is simply wasting the produce, which is clearly an undesirable option.

In this case, it would appear that the wide scale transportation of produce, and the associated carbon footprint of doing so outweighs the disadvantages of wasting tonnes of surplus crops.

While food miles is a trend the environmentally conscious will tap into, it seems that it is not a black and white issue.

Says Professor Ferne: "For any producer, or any business to have a marketing strategy based around the environmental energy of local production is flawed, and stupid.

"My point would be that local food is going to be fresher, it's going to be tastier, it's going to be traceable and much better for the local economy."



WHAT IS PRODUCED IN KENT?

IT IS a membership organisation dedicated to championing local food, drink, products and services in Kent.

Far from being motivated purely by 'food miles' it has been set up to support a diverse range of businesses relating to the production and sale of goods in the county.

Governed by a board with representatives from Kent County Council, Hadlow College and its membership, it is supportive of the employment opportunities at the 'economic heart of our rural communities'.

It explains: "Our role is to promote local and seasonal produce and provide support and services to our members. We achieve that through strategic objectives.

"They are: To champion and support the growth, development and future of the food and drink sector in Kent; to leverage brand equity to generate greater visibility and recognition among the public, future members and private sector investors; and to deliver an exceptional and valued membership experience."



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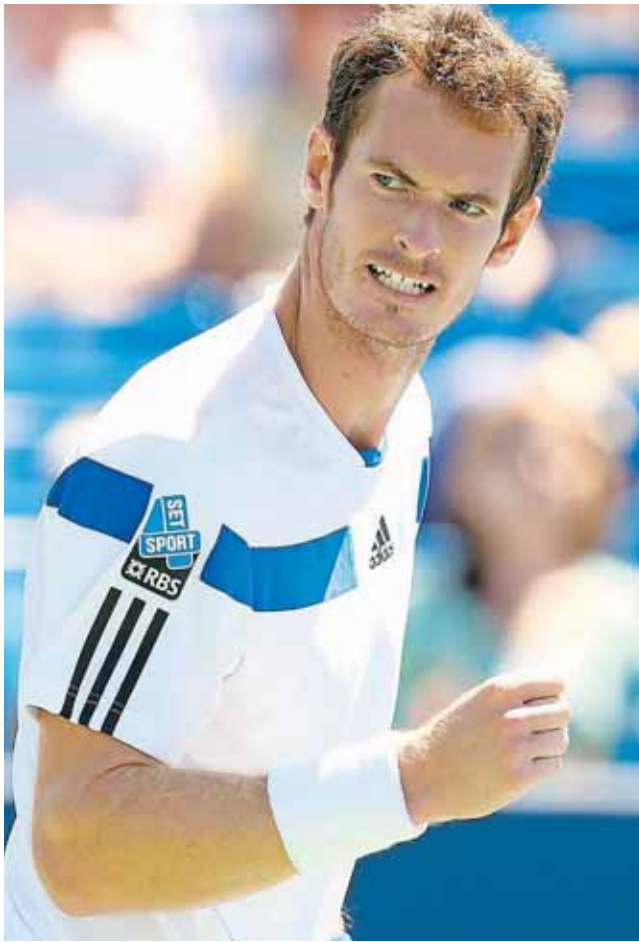
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WORTH A PUNNET? Andy Murray will hope to retain his Wimbledon title

Strawberry taste test reveals who we think are real top seeds of SW19

With Wimbledon only weeks away, **Maria Chiorando** decided to look at one tournament favourite that year after year always proves a big hit...

AS Britain's great tennis champ Andy Murray prepares to embark on the defence of his historic Wimbledon crown, the thunk of ball on racket at SW19 also serves up images of plump strawberries dipped into cool cream.

And for Kent, Wimbledon's famous dish proves a fertile ground, with thousands of the succulent fruit grown in the county before being sent up to the home of the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

But it turns out that not every berry is created equal.

With an increasing number of varieties grown across the county, it is difficult to know just which one is the cream of the crop.

So we at Kent on Sunday decided, as a service to our loyal readers, this week to determine just which was the strawberry worthy of your palate.

We picked seven varieties – all available in the major supermarkets and all grown in Kent – and conducted a blind tasting session among our newsroom staff.

Just to make it fair, we even threw in an imposter strawberry to see how that would stack up against the home-grown contenders.

For each fruit they were presented with, they had to rate it on taste, aroma, appearance and texture.

In short, the key ingredients to making the perfect strawberry.

And the results may prove a little surprising...

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Ubiquitous, superlative or just plain average – which one took top spot?

COMING out on top, and described in the tasting notes of one of our panel as 'as close to perfect as a strawberry can be', was the Driscoll's Jubilee.

This superlative berry was large, flavoursome and shapely, with a classic red timbre and pleasant aroma.

It was the top choice across the board.

This strawberry comes at a cost, though... at £5 a punnet this is not a fruit for the faint-hearted.

But if you want to watch Andy Murray tackle the world's best in pursuit of back-to-back titles while munching on a form of strawberry that does the fruit proud, then this is surely it.

Not, perhaps surprisingly, that the same can be said of the somewhat ubiquitous Elsanta.

This is one of the most common varieties, and with good reason.

Strawberries are quite delicate fruits, highly susceptible to adverse weather conditions and predators.

The Elsanta is somewhat more hardy and robust, and therefore is

able to survive conditions more ably than some of the others.

Unfortunately, what this particular berry had in hardness and low price (a mere £2), it lacked in flavour, texture and aroma.

It was the most unpopular fruit for everyone.

Also unpopular was the spanner secretly thrown into the works: a non-Kent strawberry.

Not only was the Fenella of Hertfordshire described as 'disappointingly average' but most of the tasting panel correctly identified it as the non-indigenous berry, noting its distinctive 'wild berry flavour'.

As for the rest, they spanned the gap.

Flavour was an issue for many, but the sheer variety and choice proved, as if proof were needed, that Kentish fruits are the choice of the discerning strawberry connoisseur.

■ **What do you think?** Join the debate and share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.



7th

6th

5th

3rd=

3rd=

2nd

1st

Elsanta

Comments: Watery, tasteless, sloppy texture
Overall score (out of 10)



Tesco
400g
£2

Fenella

Comments: Beautiful appearance, slightly tasteless
Overall score * Wild card – this was grown in Hertfordshire *



Tesco
400g
£2.75

Vibrant

Comments: Exceptionally watery
Overall score



Tesco
400g
£3

Triumph

Comments: Very large, a bit sour
Overall score



Tesco
400g
£2.50

Driscoll's Diamond

Comments: An inconsistent punnet, blending both the good and underwhelming
Overall score



Waitrose
400g
£2

Driscoll's Scarlet

Comments: Good firm texture, slightly insipid flavour
Overall score



Tesco
400g
£3

Driscoll's Jubilee

Comments: Good colour, good juice ratio, excellent flavour
Overall score



Waitrose
400g
£5

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AUCTION: This 1913 Merryweather fire engine (above) sold for £74,300 and a 1922 Tilling-Stevens double-decker (right) sold for £216,540. Also under the hammer was this 1935 Austin taxi.



Vintage vehicle collection sells for £3 million

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A COLLECTION of vintage motor vehicles owned by a collector near Maidstone has sold at auction for more than £3 million.

The top lot was a 1914 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost which sold for £418,140.

It formed part of a collection of more than 1,000 vehicles and memorabilia related to the motor industry which had been collected by the late Michael Banfield.

He died last year, with his remark-

able collection, built up over a lifetime, put under the auctioneer's hammer. He lived in Staplehurst.

Mr Banfield was a founder member of the Historic Commercial Vehicle Society, becoming chairman in 1965 and remaining such until 1993, when the society became a charity. He then stayed on as CEO until his retirement in 2011.

He was also a member of the Veteran Car Club (VCC) and served in various positions with FIVA, the Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens.

The sale, conducted by London

auction house Bonhams, saw a trio of classic buses sold for a combined total of half-a-million pounds, including one world-record-breaking 1922 AEC S Type, open-top double-deck bus selling at £281,500 – three times its top estimate.

The same bidder later snapped up the second bus of the day, a beautifully-restored 1922 Tilling-Stevens TS3A open-top double-decker, selling for £216,540. The final bus of the collection, a 1932 Leyland Titan TD2 double-deck bus, was one of the last two petrol-engined buses to operate in the Channel Island of Jersey,

achieving £34,500 at the auction. Some 99.7 per cent of the lots up for sale sold during the two-day event.

A collection of fire engines further heated up the bidding, with a 1913 Merryweather fire engine selling for £74,300, and a c1910 Delahaye fire engine chassis selling at £13,225, more than doubling its top estimate.

Malcolm Barber, Bonhams co-chairman and auctioneer at the sale, said: "For more than 50 years Michael Banfield dedicated himself to the restoration and preservation of these fantastic vehicles. I'm delighted we were able to celebrate Michael and his

collection with the weekend's event, honouring his life's passion with his friends, family and automotive enthusiasts.

"Bidders came from all over the world, including several from the southern hemisphere, with clients from both Australia and New Zealand not only bidding in the room but also watching via the Bonhams online bidding platform. Customers registered from Japan, the mid-west of America, Miami, across Europe and Hong Kong – this was a highly sought-after collection with many Bonhams clients taking an intense interest."



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Did missing Lord Lucan hide in two of our hotels during escape?



New book claims aristocrat – aided by a former MI5 agent – swung by Tunbridge Wells and Groombridge on his eventual way to Botswana. **Chris Murphy** investigates...



MISSING LORD: Author claims peer holed up in Groombridge (left) and Tunbridge Wells (right) during his 1974 flight

LORD Lucan was smuggled to a plush hotel in Tunbridge Wells before being disguised and flown to a remote foreign monastery, a new book on the enduring mystery claims.

The socialite and gambler has not been seen since the murder of Sandra Rivett at his family home in Belgravia, London, in November, 1974.

Estranged from his wife at the time, Lucan was declared guilty of murder, in his absence, during an inquest into her death – the last time in British legal history a coroner had the power to do so.

It is widely thought he killed the 29-year-old in a case of mistaken identity as he lay in wait for his wife.

He then fled, calling in at friends en route.

His car was found parked in a New-haven side street, leading to suggestions that he caught a cross-Channel ferry. Many believed he then threw himself overboard.

However, with no trace of him ever found, speculation has intensified into just what happened.

And Kent has played a recurring theme.

So far it has been claimed he was hidden by his chum John Aspinall at his Port Lympne, or Howletts, wild animal parks, or that the animal-lover flew him out of Headcorn Airfield on a private jet, allowing him to hide and lead a life abroad and out of reach of the long arm of justice.

Now, however, a new book has been published which offers a very different turn of events – and one no less fanciful than those which have gone before.

It claims the missing socialite was smuggled out of the UK via Kent to a monastery and possibly on to Botswana by a former spy and member of a private underground army.

Author of *The Troops of Midian*, Richard Wilmott, says the information comes directly from the former MI5 operative who planned and executed the operation, paid for by Lucan's wealthy pals.

The book takes its name from an apparently genuine shady underworld

private army of the same name. The source is James Gurney, a former government spook and latterly a member of the secretive troops.

Mr Wilmott claims Mr Gurney told him everything on the operation to spirit Lucan out of the UK and set him up with a new life – possibly in Botswana.

Following the nanny's murder, the book says Lucan was taken to what was the Wellington Hotel on Mount Ephraim in Tunbridge Wells – now a Travelodge – and then on to the Crown Inn in nearby Groombridge, a village on the East Sussex/Kent border.

With the coast clear, it was on to a safe house in Fonthill Gifford, Wiltshire, which is where Mr Gurney comes in.

It's claimed he told Mr Wilmott that Lucan changed his appearance the best he could by shaving off his distinctive moustache, applying fake tan and dying his hair blond.

It was then on to a flight, with a fake passport in the name Richard Bishop, from Heathrow to Athens.

The alleged former spy kept a diary, and one entry on them leaving the UK read: "It might have seemed lunacy

that I was about to set out in broad daylight with the most wanted man in Britain beside me, but the police were looking for a lone man with dark hair and a sandy speckled moustache.

"We were two fair, clean-shaven men, travelling together."

It was just two weeks after the murder. From Athens, the pair holed up in a series of safe houses and boats before settling at the remote Moni Kapsa monastery in eastern Crete for a month. It's said the monks received a healthy donation of thousands of pounds in 1975 to repay them. Locals called the tall, thin gentleman who had arrived there "the man who walked with goats" because of his frequent mountain strolls.

A fishing boat took the peer, disguised as a monk, from Ierapetra to Africa, where the trail finally goes cold. The writer speculates about Botswana being where he lived out his days.

Mr Wilmott said Mr Gurney told him the story and showed him his diaries and when a friend at the BBC put his theory to a member of Lucan's family they said it was "spot on".

Lucan's family have, however, publicly always denied any knowledge of where the peer went.

It is often guessed that Lord Lucan passed away in either 2004 or 2008. As for Mr Gurney, he was using a fake name and has also vanished.

Mr Wilmott said he spent 20 years on the research, during which time, in 1995, his car containing vital documents was set on fire at his Dorset home. Thankfully, he had copies of notes.

Steve Harnes took over the Crown Inn in Groombridge two years ago. He had no idea his venue might have been used for Lucan's apparent escape until Kent on Sunday told him.

He told us: "We have had a few famous people here over the years. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used to pop in and Keira Knightley came in during the filming of *Pride and Prejudice*.

"And now we hear Lord Lucan stopped off. Perhaps I should put up a new 'special' on the restaurant board."



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Will closure of seaside car park lead to gridlock on the streets?

Whitstable's traders and residents fear the worst as vital repair work begins, reports **Chris Murphy**

WHITSTABLE faces perhaps its toughest logistical challenge in decades as it prepares for a summer season without the use of its main car park.

The Gorrell Tank car park offers 240 spaces and is just yards from the bustling harbour and high street, which draw in thousands of visitors every week during the busy summer months.

It is also home to the town's traditional market.

But since last month, it has been closed to all traffic after it was discovered there were serious safety concerns about the structure beneath it.

The car park sits on top of a large rainwater holding tank, run by Southern Water, which helps prevent flooding when heavy rain combines with high tides.

However, problems with corrosion in concrete supporting columns following a recent inspection forced its closure at the end of April while repair work could be carried out.

Now the race is on to get the car park back in use before the town's popular Oyster Festival, which takes place at the end of July.

A spokesman for Southern Water said: "We commissioned a team of specialists to inspect the south-east quarter of the tank. Their investigation has found that some of the concrete columns which support the car park are corroding and need to be repaired."

"The specialists expect the situation to be as bad, if not worse, in the other three-quarters of the area. Therefore we had to close the car park."

"We appreciate that Whitstable is a busy tourist town and the car park is one of only two long-stay car parks, but health and safety is our first and foremost consideration."

"We're working with Canterbury City Council on the long-term plan for the site."

Although other car-parking spaces are being liberated – with proposals for even a local recreation ground being transformed into a temporary car park to ease the strain during peak time, as well as using school playgrounds – and enhanced park and ride options, those living in the town fear chaos.

Already the town's roads become clogged and blocked as motorists flock and park along nar-

row streets, leaving many to fear how emergency vehicles would access residential areas.

And traders fear they could be left counting the cost if visitors struggle to park and opt instead to go elsewhere.

Brian Hitcham runs Oxford Books in Oxford Street in the town, and he is also president of the local chamber of commerce.

He said: "Businesses are about 30 per cent down on what they should be – this fiasco has collectively cost us around half a million pounds."

"A lot of customers are tourists coming in to the town. Many are regulars and know about this car park and head straight for it."

"But we have an issue of signage. They don't know it's closed until they reach it, and alternatives are not well signposted."

"The council says the school car park is an alternative, but that has long been available so is not really helping to make up the numbers lost at Gorrell Tank."

"I blame Southern Water. I want to know the last time they inspected the concrete and whether the damage could have been caught earlier. These problems don't happen overnight."

"Many businesses in this town need a good summer season to ensure they stay afloat during the quieter winter months and this is not helping. I am sure a lot of people are worried."

At The Clothes Horse, boss Adrian Ingoldby said: "Trade is down, but I can't quantify it. It is painful, but what can anyone do about it if the work needs to be done? The footfall is noticeably down – I just hope they get the work finished sooner rather than later."

Gus Corcoran is the event director for the Whitstable Oyster Festival.

He told us: "We have succeeded in reaching an agreement on a major park and ride service which will take pressure off the town centre."

"We have the kind support of Whitstable Community College – we are using their playing fields just above Church Street which, if you fill to the brim, you will get 2,000 cars in, which is enough for us."

PAGE 31 »



CONCERNS: The closure of Gorrell Tank car park could lead to major problems this summer

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"There will be £7.50 cost if booked in advance or £10 on the gate because we are not able to subsidise the parking as the council has done in the past.

"But, in truth, we would prefer people to use public transport."

Mr Corcoran added: "The college car park gives us 10 times the capacity of the Gorrell Tank car park."

But the cost and distance from the beach may act as a deterrent, with many fearing gridlock in the town.

Aware of problems experienced by organisers of the Folkestone Airshow, which lost money despite pulling in 190,000 due to poor signage and take-up of official car parks, Mr Corcoran says there will be no problem.

He said: "As long as the message this car park is available is communicated properly, which is what we will be doing in all our advance marketing, it should work. We are using a very reputable local traffic-management company to ensure proper signposting."

Canterbury and Whitstable MP Julian Brazier has been following the drama closely: "I fully understand the council had no choice, as concrete cancer in the supports would have made it dangerous to continue to use it.

"I have received representations that traders and licensed premises in Whitstable High Street and elsewhere are suffering severe losses of sales. There is a real danger of reputational damage with word getting around about severe parking difficulties."

“As long as the message that this car park is available is communicated, which is what we will be doing in all our marketing, it should work”

Gus Corcoran,

Whitstable Oyster Festival

HEADING TO WHITSTABLE OVER THE COMING WEEKS?



IF YOU'RE looking to visit the popular town and would normally use the Gorrell Tank, there are alternatives.

Both Whitstable Town Football Club and Whitstable Junior School will be opening up their car parks during the summer to help ease the strain.

In addition, there are regular car parks in: Tankerton Road, Keam's Yard, Gladstone Road, Shaftesbury Road, Victoria Street,

Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable Leisure Centre and Middle Wall.

Meanwhile, a consultation is under way between now and June 30 to use the Westmeads recreation ground as temporary parking during the summer. If approved, it will provide an additional 200 spaces.

A council spokesman explained: "We had to research viable options for grass protection and arrange other logistics such as layout, entrance/

exit options and so on. Then the law says we have to consult residents for 21 days.

"We'll take a decision on July 3 and then, if agreed, it will be ready for the end of July."

The market, with extended hours, will be held on the car park at Tankerton Road.

There are park and ride facilities at the top of the town at the Estuary View business park and, as mentioned in the main article, on the playing fields of Whitstable Community College.



GORRELL TANK CAR PARK REPAIRS

SOUTHERN Water will be undertaking the repairs to the Gorrell Tank car park, with trucks moving in this week to resolve the issue.

A spokesman explained: "Our supplier Morrison Utility Services will add supports to the corroded columns and clear a build-up of silt from the southern end of the tank.

"This will allow them to return half of the car park back to use in time for the summer, providing there are no storms which hamper the repairs.

"We would like to apologise to the people of Whitstable for the disruption this situation has caused

"We know the market traders have had to move and that the closure of the car park has impacted on people living and working locally, but we hope our repairs will alleviate this for the busy summer months."

If all goes to plan, the car park should be open by the end of July – just in time for the Whitstable Oyster Festival, which runs from July 26 to August 1.

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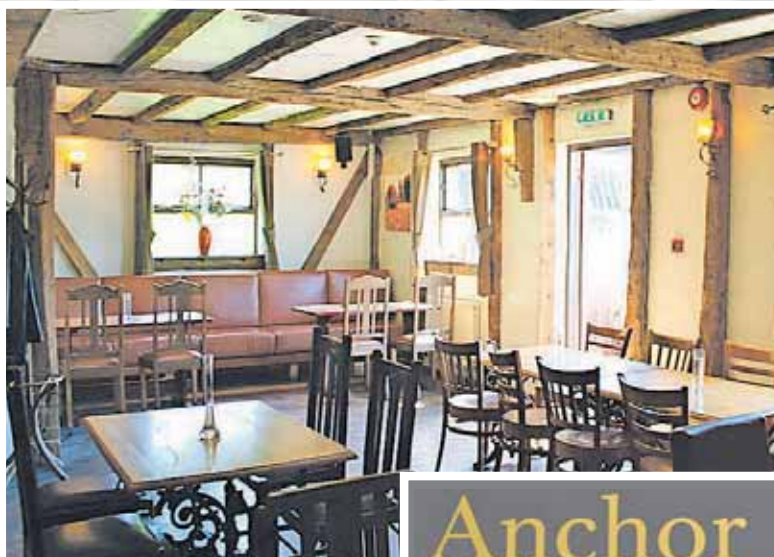
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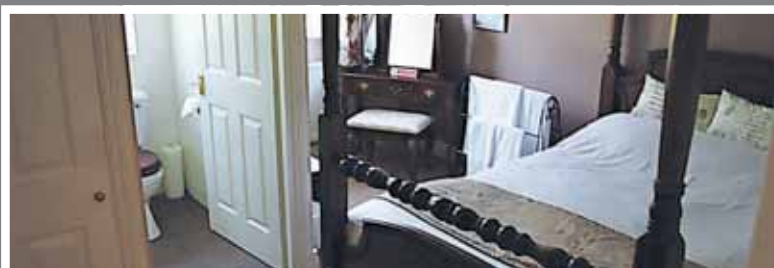
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Museum's restoration could transform harbour site into top visitor attraction

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans to renovate and improve the Ramsgate Maritime Museum are progressing, with hopes it will transform the existing site and Clock House into a major visitor attraction.

If the plans do go ahead it will transform the building into a key cultural asset for both the harbour and the town.

Top London-based architect Francis Phillips has drawn up the plans and is working in tandem with the Steam Museum Trust, which operates the museum.

Proposals include improved exhibition and gallery spaces at the museum, renovation of the building's façade, a restaurant, and outside seating area with uninterrupted sea views.

The trust has been involved with the management of the museum since signing a 25-year lease with Thanet District Council in 2012.

Prior to this the building had been closed for four years, much to the dismay of the local community which campaigned for it to be reopened.

While this was a key priority, the trust now wants to fully renovate the



SHIPSHAPE: Plans have been drawn up to renovate and improve Ramsgate Maritime Museum, pictured centre, with new gallery space and a restaurant

building and improve facilities and exhibits so as to secure the building's future.

Part of these developments will include celebrating the varied and unusual history that Ramsgate has to offer.

The museum is situated in the Grade II-listed Clock House, centrally positioned within the Royal Harbour.

There is also a hidden oculus in the floor by the main entrance, part of the building's original features, which the trust proposes to uncover and

open for the public to view.

Another key plan is to relocate the motor yacht the Sundowner – one of the 4,200 'little ships' which played such an heroic role in rescuing Allied troops from the beaches of Dunkirk during the Second World War.

Coincidentally, the ship was once owned by Charles Lightoller, second officer on-board RMS Titanic, the most senior surviving officer from the historic disaster in 1912.

It is hoped to bring the Sundowner and the Cervia – the only remaining

sea-going steam tug in the UK – closer to the museum to become a focal point of the improved area.

Liz Flynn, from Ramsgate Maritime Museum, said: "It is a wonderful asset and incredibly important to the rich history of Ramsgate."

"We are excited about our plans for the area and hope to transform this hidden gem so that it can reach its full potential."

"We are very grateful to all the volunteers who dedicate so much time to keeping the museum open, and we

look forward to collaborating with them to develop a brighter future for the museum."

Organisers have not yet calculated how much the project could cost, but will be exploring the possibility of grants and also actively fund-raising through events.

As part of the process, later this summer, the trust will be hosting the Royal Harbour Festival.

It will be a three-day music and food celebration, held over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

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Airshow a hit, but admits it has traffic lessons to learn

All pictures: PAUL JOHNSON



DISPLAYS: Among those performing at the airshow were the Trig Aerobatic Team (left) and the Red Bull Matadors (right) and the Douglas Dakota (below)

ORGANISERS of the airshow at Biggin Hill say they will learn lessons from this year's event which began and ended with massive traffic jams, leaving many stuck in their cars for hours.

The Festival of Flight took place last Saturday and was a sell-out, with all 15,000 tickets sold in advance.

Among the displays in the air were the Red Arrows, a Douglas Dakota, and Spitfires in a RAF Battle of Britain memorial flight.

Other highlights included the RAF Tucano display team, Blades Aerobatic Team, the Breitling Wing Walk-

Biggin Hill airshow organisers promise review after mass exit left frustrated fans in car park, writes Chris Murphy

ers, and the Red Bull Matadors.

But the organisers put on the high-light of the day, the Red Arrows, last of all, and admit that once they completed their display, all 15,000 people tried to leave the airfield at once.

Spokesman for the event, Simon Ames, said: "We will be reviewing the traffic management plan over the coming weeks. We have spoken to the Red Arrows and should we be lucky enough to have them we will put

them in the programme around 4pm to stop the mass exodus that we had of all those that attended, when the Reds completed.

"None of us wanted to see the problems we had in the car park during the exit and we will explore every option to improve next year. Constructive ideas would be welcome."

Aviation enthusiast Kate Sheehan was less than impressed.

She said: "We didn't even get there

as the traffic was so bad we turned around and came home. I don't think we were the only ones to do that.

"It was badly organised in relation to traffic management."

Another visitor, Jacqui Hodges, said she was "saddened and disappointed" and vowed not to return after spending two hours sat in traffic.

The spokesman added: "There have been one or two complaints and they will be looked at for next year.

"If you have the Red Arrows on last, which we did, the moment they landed everyone wanted to get out. And that is what caused the temporary frustration and irritation.

"The lessons we learned is don't put the Red Arrows on last, it always causes traffic problems.

"But it was quickly resolved. By 8pm the place was empty, so it was fairly temporary. A bit unfortunate but other than that, there were no other glitches.

"There were patches of cloud and patches of sunshine, but broadly speaking, I think everyone enjoyed themselves immensely."

BIGGIN HILL AIRSHOW: HISTORY

FOR nearly 50 years, the Biggin Hill International Air Fair was one of the biggest and best aviation events in Europe – pulling in more than 100,000 people for a weekend of entertainment.

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It was in 1965, above Biggin Hill, the Red Arrows made their first public display. This year, marking their 50th anniversary, the team celebrated with a 30-minute display during last weekend's event.

But in 2010, after the airport was taken over by a new owner, the licence to hold the fair was cancelled and the event shelved.

As the airport concentrated on its billing as a business centre, it decided to return this year to large scale shows with the one-day Festival of Flight.

Many hope that once lessons from this year's return are absorbed, it will return next year with a view to once again becoming an annual event – albeit on a more modest scale than it once was.





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Titles are key for illustrator with a passion for rural life

Rebecca Day talks to **Diana Crampton** about her art and living in the county

ARTISTS' studios come in many shapes, sizes and locations and Rebecca Day's is certainly no exception. I reflect, as I sit in the converted granary where she works.

Open-plan, with Velux windows and a bed for her dog, the door is open on this sunny summer day. Day is a rural illustrator, inspired by her distinctly country childhood, having grown up at Moorden Farm near Penshurst.

Starting out her career in what she describes as a "fairly unappealing" line of work in London, Day missed the countryside and life on the farm. "Kent is wonderful, with London on the doorstep," she said. "There are little towns, good people and it is the best of both worlds."

Over the course of our interview, it became clear that she is closely involved in farm work and adventures, the changing of the seasons and the appearance of wild and farm animals, which mainly form her subjects.

While not formally trained in art, she obtained a degree in countryside management and worked for a charity giving conservation advice to farmers.

Day had been creating cards while doing this work, so when she was made redundant three years ago it was a relatively short step to develop her hobby and go into art full-time.

She holds her own exhibitions because she loves organising events. These can vary from her safe studio to more "quirky venues", as she put it. One recent exhibition, for instance, took place at Chiddingstone Castle.

"It suits the ethos of my work and it is good to support venues locally and get visitors into the castle," she said.

As for her lack of training, she remains undaunted but refers to lessons learned at school that helped her get to know which medium she liked.

"If you have a natural talent, I think it will show through," she said. "This particular genre came naturally to me. I like taking words or titles and thinking about what animal characters would fit into those subjects."

"I paint what is around me – illustration is a more structured way of working. It's easy to think of a title, like 'the naughty Labrador

Continued on page 39 »



LOVE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE: Rural illustrator Rebecca Day and one of her three dogs in her converted granary studio in west Kent

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« Continued from page 37

and a mouse', for instance. I'd get an image and the process flows. Titles are very important, they are the key.

"Often I will think of the title before the actual image itself. Last Christmas, I illustrated according to carol titles. I make a connection between what I see and how that could fit into certain titles".

Day also had an exhibition centred on childhood rhymes; one was Jabberwocky, another a piece called This Is The Way The Lady Rides. Her Gulliver's Travels depicts a cat walking on a fence.

I asked whether she read a lot to find inspiration. Her answer was quite surprising: "Not really. I love children's books, old poems, country sayings, and that is where I draw inspiration from."

She also does animal commissions and takes them very seriously, too. She researches the subject thoroughly, which could mean meeting the subject and getting to know their quirks or mannerisms.

People usually pick up on the humour behind it. Day has three 'naughty' spaniels and, as she says, "There is always something happening on the farm to catch your eye."

She believes that imagination counts as the number one skill needed for illustration.

"You have to visualise in your head something creative. You need a sense of humour, also knowledge of your subject, how animals move, and so on. For me, understanding the seasons, which plants you'd see together, makes the illustration come to life and people relate to this."

The works are created in



watercolour but not used in the traditional sense like washes in landscape, plus a pigment ink pen. The process may involve a visit and Day will first of all take photographs. Later she gets involved in more research and does preliminary sketches to get the composition right.

She also works for rural businesses, so there may be a pre-selected theme for the work. Her biggest paintings are just less than 60cm. Commissions are 43cm by 55cm, framed, on a variety of papers, such as watercolour paper or graphic paper for a logo.

The most exciting project has been the stationery for her wedding, including the invitations.

This brought her happiness, but she also says that art is important for bringing happiness to most people.

■ Call Rebecca Day for an appointment on 01892 871398; you can also visit www.toadhallcompany.co.uk.



ANIMAL MAGIC: Illustrator Rebecca Day's distinctive works include On The Run, top left, Now Listen Up, top right, and And There It Was, above



This feature is one of the articles that can be enjoyed in **June's Kent Life**, which is out now. Or you can subscribe online @ subscriptionsave.co.uk or www.buymag.co.uk/KE

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Saxophonist YolanDa is bringing her jazz skills back to the cathedral city

SHE has been dubbed "the UK's most exciting jazz talent" and this month saxophonist YolanDa Brown returns to the city that was home through her time in higher education.

Ten years in Canterbury, where she studied management science at the University of Kent, means Brown should have a better idea than most of the jazz scene in the cathedral city and across east Kent. She does not, though, it would appear, recall it as particularly vibrant.

"I have very, very fond memories of Kent," said Brown, who hails from not so very far away in Barking, east London.

"I went to a few gigs but not a lot. I was not aware of a jazz scene *per se*, but I would probably have found one if I'd looked for it. If something had been advertised, though, I would have seen it."

In truth, she was perhaps too focused on her drive to becoming a management consultant to have noticed such things, but ultimately the music won through and her decade of education (from 2001-2010) at Canterbury, where she studied for her degree, Master's and PhD, was brought to a close.

The PhD was not completed and Brown took the bold step into the world of professional jazz – her saxophone would be her passport to fame and, just maybe, fortune.

"I think it's still in the back of my mind that I might one day complete my studies," she said. "But I had to make a hard decision as to whether I wanted to go touring a lot and playing or stay with the course."

So we can't call her 'Doctor', then?

"Well, actually, you can. The month I made the decision to not carry on with my PhD at Canterbury, the University of East London awarded me an honorary arts degree. It really was a sign to say I'd made the right decision."

Her career has already had highlights, including a UK tour with The Temptations, a meeting with the Queen, a visit to Downing Street and playing for former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev at The Winter Palace.

Her first album, April Showers May Flowers, hit No 1 in the iTunes and Amazon jazz charts, so there really would seem to be no stopping this friendly, light-hearted and richly talented woman in the world of jazz.

It is, of course, a world that is sometimes viewed as a little gloomy, inhabited by groups of sad old losers with nothing else – or no one else – to occupy their time. Might the emergence of bright young things such as Brown be indicative of a sea change?

"I think it is changing," she said. "Jazz has so many parts and I've mixed other styles of music in my songs – there's reggae,

soul and classical, for example. I'm a bit of a rebel in the jazz field.

"As for the sad old men, I think that's more associated with bebop and traditional."

Sad old men, or just men. Jazz has been unquestionably male-dominated, but again Brown senses a gentle revolution.

"There are lots of female artists out there making great music as well," she said. "I think they can also bring a more emotional and softer approach to things."

Brown usually travels with backing singers but at Gulbenkian in Canterbury next weekend she will just be part of a quintet.

"It's an intimate venue and it will be a lovely evening," she said.

The current tour is lengthy – from May 2014 to March 2015 – but with substantial gaps between clusters of dates. Deliberate or just the way it fell?

"Sometimes we do take breaks and sometimes it's how it falls. If I'm recording a new album I quite like the fact that those breaks are there – you get the opportunity to be creative and try out new material."

"But I'll often be humming a new tune or idea into my phone – it's always in the background."

■ YolanDa Brown will be at Gulbenkian on Sunday, June 29, at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £12 (concessions £10). Visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk or phone 01227 769075.

■ On Saturday, July 5, she will be at the Hop Farm Music Festival, Paddock Wood. Phone 0845 0756101, or alternatively you can visit www.thehopfarmmusicfestival.com.



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Outdoor festival hits new heights

Organisers hail popular creative event as 'remarkable feast of colour', with new acts thrilling audiences

FUSE Medway Festival 2014 will be remembered as the best yet, say the organisers of the north Kent cultural festival.

A spokesman for the event said there had been "more visitors than ever before, the highest-quality acts and some real winners for the crowds".

"This year was a remarkable feast of colour, movement, excitement and surprise as the towns of Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham filled with acts of all kinds, from circus and dance to poetry and visual art," the spokesman said.

"With the weather staying fine, the outdoors provided the perfect setting for people to gather together and truly celebrate."

Fuse artistic director Megan Donnelly said: "I've enjoyed every minute of this festival – the preparation, the performances and seeing so many people enjoying themselves."

"This year we had more visitors than ever before and the crowd had a fantastic buzz about it."

"Our opening parade saw even bigger and better puppets than in previous years and over the weekend there were more big shows for people to choose from."

"We wanted to give our audiences the chance to watch, take part in

and, above all, really experience a huge range of quality artists – all for free."

This year's festival included circus, dance, music and magic from Les Enfants Terribles' Imaginary Menagerie, break-dancing from Southpaw Dance Company's Faust, an art and design fair, comics exhibition, pedal-powered poetry, a human foghorn and a range of spectacular shows.

Saturday night saw a piece of aerial theatre from Wired Aerial

“This year's Fuse Festival really did have something for all the family... a wonderful way to celebrate creativity”

Theatre – an "action movie in the sky", with artists suspended high above the audience in the night sky.

Medway Council's Howard Doe said: "This year's Fuse Festival really did have something on offer for all the family. It is a wonderful way to celebrate creativity in Medway."

The festival was supported by the Arts Council's Grants For The Arts scheme and Medway Council.



UP FOR GRABS: Wired Aerial Theatre, pictured top, were among a number of unusual acts performing in Medway

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We are delighted to be able to bring you the 2014 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards

YOUR nominations are being encouraged for the 2014 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards.

The awards dinner will take place at Tudor Park Marriott Hotel and Country Park, Bearsted, near Maidstone, on November 13, 2014, from 6.30pm to midnight.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to Kent's outstanding food and drink industry.

From local producers and suppliers to small farming businesses, restaurants, chefs, pubs and hoteliers, all will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment. The companies featured will be nominated by you, our wonderful Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers.

We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or been impressed by the produce and service at your local farmers' market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available here if you prefer to enter by post. Photocopied forms are acceptable. You can also enter your favourite online at our awards website kentfda.co.uk, or you can email us your nomination at kentfda@archant.co.uk.

Nominations close on August 1, 2014. Our hand-picked panel of high-profile judges, who all live and work in Kent, then select a short-list.

This kickstarts the independent judging process, when all the finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each of the 12 categories.

All finalists will be invited to the awards ceremony in November, when they will enjoy a fabulous reception and three-course meal prepared by Tudor Park's talented head chef

Tom Biddle before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our second Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

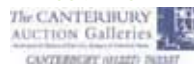
These awards are what you, our readers, make of them, so if you are the owner of a pub or restaurant, a chef or local producer, then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to nominate your favourite. You can email, post or enter your nomination online. The judging panel is looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations, so that everybody is in with a chance, no matter how big or small their business.

Don't forget to let us know on our Twitter pages @kentlife and @KOSMedia when you have made your nomination, by using #kentfda - similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag.



NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



This popular category is open to anyone in the food or drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months. We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield. Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

BUTCHER OF THE YEAR



This is your chance to praise your local butcher and everything they do. Consider asking your butcher how their meat is hung, prepared and cut and whether it can be traced to a local farm. Are the staff knowledgeable and helpful? Do they suggest new cuts for you to try? Do they use their expertise to prepare meat ready for the oven? Does your butcher play a key role within the local community? If so, nominate them!

TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR



Tea shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene and we'd like to know your favourites. Who makes the best tea, serves the nicest cakes and the freshest scones? Is the jam homemade and are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled? Do they make tea feel like a special event? Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We're looking forward to hearing all about your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



New this year, this category celebrates our local food producers. We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top-quality local produce and service to their customers. We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, we'd like you to share it with us. If your local baker, grocer or farmer delights, let us know.

DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



New this year, this category celebrates our local drink producers. Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy. We want to know who you think makes the best drink in Kent, alcoholic or not, and why it is so special. We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example a fabulous new flavour, we'd like to hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR



A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt shoppers away from their local supermarket. Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable? Is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard? Does your local farm shop offer a box scheme? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm or nearby, and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from? Nominate your favourite now!

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR



The key to a good farmers' market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports - for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there

AWARDS CRITERIA

grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Is the layout easy to navigate as you move around the market? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks? Is the market well advertised so you can plan your visit in advance and is there good accessibility and parking? Let us know so we can tell everyone about the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR



A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We are looking for an inn that also offers delicious and locally-sourced food with seasonal variations. As well as excellent food and drink, it must offer fantastic friendly customer service and real value for money. Good pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community. To misquote a popular TV programme, "pubs are all about ambience, ambience, ambience". If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know by voting for them.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and, most importantly, the food. Are the ingredients locally sourced, do they support local producers and, if so, are they recognised on the menu? Look through their wine list - do they have local as well as international wines and fizz and can the staff tell you more if you ask? We'd expect nothing less from the 2014 Restaurant of the Year.

CHEF OF THE YEAR



Kent is blessed with outstanding chefs working in the county's fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted himself or herself to the cause of serving the best possible food. They will demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. They will be able to lead and inspire their team and to talk to customers knowledgeably about the dishes they have enjoyed. Above all, we are looking for passion - that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR



Another category that's new this year is Customer Service of the Year. Most of our awards recognise customer service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake. Do you know an individual, organisation or establishment offering consistently excellent service that goes above and beyond what you expect? We all know great service when we have received it - now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, tell us.

KENT FOOD & DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR



Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK, as you would expect from the Garden of England. This category celebrates the individual who has made a positive impact on the food or drink community - someone who goes the extra mile to promote Kent to a wider audience and is passionate about local produce throughout. Now is your chance to nominate your own Kent Food and Drink Hero.



Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2014 Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form, or email us at kentfda@archant.co.uk

Please post your entry form to:
 Food & Drink Awards 2014,
 Archant KOS Media,
 Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth,
 Ashford TN25 6SS

Or you can email us at:
kentfda@archant.co.uk

Copies of the form and posters to
 advertise your entry are available at
www.kent-life.co.uk and at
www.kentnews.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is
 Friday, August 1, 2014.

Name.....

Address.....

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Email.....

By entering your details you will be automatically added to the Archant database. Archant will contact you with relevant offers and you can unsubscribe from this at any time. If you would prefer not to be contacted, please state 'no offers' on this form.



■ Our 2013 Kent Food and Drink Hero, Stephanie Hayman, above, who has revolutionised school meals in east Kent. Who will be your choice of Hero for the 2014 top award?

Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year

Sponsored by Canterbury Auction Galleries

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Food Producer of the Year

Sponsored by Perrys Chartered Accountants

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Farmers' Market of the Year

Sponsored by MyFerryLink

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Chef of the Year

Sponsored by Britelite

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Butcher of the Year

Sponsored by Bybrook Barn

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Drinks Producer of the Year

Sponsored by Anchor & Hope

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Pub of the Year

Sponsored by Eastwell Manor

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Customer Service of the Year

Sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury

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Tea Shop of the Year

Sponsored by Gerald Lukehurst

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Farm Shop of the Year

Sponsored by Winterdale Cheesemakers

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Restaurant of the Year

Sponsored by Rix & Kay

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Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year

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your say...

Send us your views.

Write to:
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Email:
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Twitter:
@kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

White horse more a white elephant

WITH regards to the huge white horse statue proposed to be erected at Ebbsfleet [KoS, last week].

What kind of amnesiac was responsible for even dreaming it up and commissioning it in the first place?

Kent already has a white horse, who has a name and meaning.

What is more, he dates back to before Romans time.

His name is Invicta; meaning unconquered. He is still here and will remain, even after the EU's domination has failed.

Just who is responsible for trying to replace him and erase his memory from the minds of the people of Kent?

June Moore, Tunbridge Wells

EU takeover is not what they died for

HAVING just commemorated the 70th anniversary of D-Day, I wonder what all the British service personnel who died during that invasion would think of the way politicians and others have recklessly and disgracefully squandered the freedoms and democracy they gave their lives defending.

Seventy years ago, Europe was in the grip of Nazi German tyranny.

Germany's Angela Merkel is now reported to be the most powerful woman in the world, and Germany the richest and most powerful country in Europe.

Where did we go wrong to allow this of a country with such an unforgivable recent history?

The blueprint for the EU can be traced back to what Germany planned to do with us if it won the Second World War.

Today, that which Germany failed to do is being achieved by stealth and cunning, and British taxpayers are funding much of it. While the Tories, Labour and Lib Dems are salivating around the gates of Brussels seeking power and grandeur that they will never be allowed to have, Britain is being broken up before our eyes.

If the insanity of the EU is not stopped soon, there will be nothing left of our country worth fighting for.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

Hospice flying in face of the facts

PILGRIMS Hospice chief executive Steve Auty clearly disagrees with the expert findings of both Sue Ryder Care and the Help the Hospices

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Magpie persecution is barking up wrong tree

CONTRARY to the assertions of Mr Giltrap [KoS letters, 08.06], all scientific studies have shown that seasonal predation of eggs and chicks by magpies and other corvids has no long-term negative impact upon songbird populations.

Indeed, habitats that support the greatest numbers of magpies also support the healthiest populations of other bird species.

Magpies are, of course, a native species and form an important element of a healthy eco-system.

Their unwarranted persecution will inevitably have consequences for the natural balance of our native flora and fauna.

Indeed, songbirds have long evolved to absorb significant attrition of eggs and chicks, and it is in fact habitat loss, bad weather and mortality among breeding birds and fledged young that impacts most significantly

upon their populations.

Further, Mr Giltrap's killing of these beautiful and intelligent British natives is very possibly illegal, because a licence is required from Natural England.

The reference to currently healthy songbird populations has everything to do with an excellent breeding season for our wild birds, as a result of benign spring weather, rather than annihilation of local magpie populations.

If Mr Giltrap really wants to help our native birds, and not just enjoy shooting them, he should devote his energy to campaigning to protect our semi-natural habitats and reduce pesticide use and persuading cat-owners to invest in collars with bells.

Cllr Tony Harwood (Lib Dem), chairman of the management committees for the Boxley Warren and River Len local nature reserves, Maidstone

Commission on Future Hospice Care.

His statement that 70 per cent of people want to die at home is misleading since when, and of whom, the question is asked offers a more nuanced result.

The recent report by Demos for the Sue Ryder Foundation, A Time and A Place: What people want at end of life (2013), illustrates this, saying: "More people want to die in a hospice the closer they get to death. At the same time, fewer people want to die at home. Most importantly, at the very end (last days) of life, hospice becomes the preferred place to be for those with

experience of hospices: 44 per cent say they want their last days at home, and 55 per cent in a hospice."

The report goes on to recommend that providers seek to improve knowledge of hospices within their communities, spread their offerings of care by providing Hospice at Home services, and liaise with other providers in offering education in end-of-life care for staff.

All these are laudable elements of future strategy at Pilgrims.

However, the report does not suggest closing any existing hospice inpatient facilities as they intended to do.

The implications of the report are that as understanding of hospices is spread more widely – as Pilgrims intends – with an increasingly growing and aging population, the need for hospice inpatient beds will increase, rather than decrease, as Mr Auty implies.

This point is reinforced by one of the main recommendations of a report by Help the Hospices Commission into Future Hospice care – Current and Future needs for Hospice Care: An evidence based Report (2013).

This states that "it is essential to increase the availability of hospice beds and/or investigate optimal ways to use the number of existing inpatient hospice beds. However, it is also paramount to diversify hospice care provision into other models of care and care settings".

Both these reports speak for the need to utilise existing inpatient provision as well as increase community services.

David Tattersall, Canterbury

She's not talking for the real masses

THE statement by Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes [KoS, 08.06] "the people of Kent have put their trust in me..." is not strictly true.

Out of an electorate of 1,281,239 only 114,137 actually voted for her; or to put it another way 1,167,102 actually didn't vote for her.

Maybe they already knew she had delusions of adequacy?

R Alexander, Swanley

Macmillan needs your help in fight

RECENT research has shown that every day a staggering 24 people in the county hear the devastating news they have cancer and 12 people die from the illness.

This will see Kent's population of people living with cancer more than double between 2010 and 2030.

This huge increase will result in thousands more people feeling isolated and alone, even after treatment ends. Macmillan and its supporters want to make sure we're there to solve these issues.

It costs £27 to pay for a Macmillan nurse for one hour.

We are looking for people in Kent to hold events, parties and coffee mornings for Macmillan to help raise cash for these nursing hours.

For advice and to order merchandise, call 0300 1000 200.

Liz O'Hanlon,

Kent fundraising manager, Macmillan Cancer Support

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline "Inspiring Communities".

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Boxley

by **Ivor Dennis**
from Rainham

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calls cost £1.50 per minute plus network charges

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TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT2 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

JANE 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as duvet days, WLTN too serious male for a hopefully normal relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315

MARY 5ft 6in size 12 blonde, nice personality, good conversationalist, interesting, lots of interests WLTN likeminded caring, happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412169

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408297

CLARE 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412053

LADY 60, size 12, easy going, likes animals, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411301

FEMALE young 47yrs red hair, blue eyes 4'11" VGSOH adventurous, loves outdoors but also cosy nights in, smoker seeks attractive male. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4419255

PETITE slim blonde 39yrs, pretty big blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoy nights in/out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412327

ANNA, bustly mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

WIDOW 70, lonely, seeking gent, 70-75 to bring a bit of sparkle back in life, likes theatre, cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412475

KATIE 26yr old pretty slim blue eyed blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412319

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 410127

FREYA 33 6ft blonde, loves dancing and have a good time, employed, own home, one son, seeking similar laidback guy/dad for dates, chats and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412045

MARILYN really nice curvy tactile female, loves romantic walks, cosy nights in, quality times, looking for nice male to spend time and fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411871

SHARON 32yrs and still soul searching for Mr Right, I enjoy keeping in shape, caring for people, seeking loving respectful guy who also knows a good time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412049

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. Tel: 0905 002 1945 Box 412285

OLIM petite, attractive brunette, 56, British/Russian origin, excellent cook/home maker, seeks cultured male for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412129

PLACE YOUR AD BY TEXT

SIMPLY TEXT: REG followed by your **FIRST NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, AREA AND YOUR ADVERT (max 155 characters)** and **SEND TO 80098**

FREE (Standard Network rates apply)

JULIE attractive outgoing female with a very young attitude, loves running, living life, travel, WLTN someone special to make my life complete, hope you're out there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411513

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779

JAN 5ft 6ins, dark hair/eyes, nice smile, likes music, travel, countryside, animals, employed, OHAC, looking for companionship with similar lonely heart. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411865

SARAH 25 petite slim attractive blonde student, enjoys keeping fit, looking good, socialising, going out, being a mum WLTN similar fun genuine guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411537

JANET 5ft Bins, slim 12, pretty, green eyes, brown hair, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411689

MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves meals out, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410137

CAROLINE blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409413

RACHEL 39, brown hair/eyes, 5ft Bins, bubbly, outgoing, naughty, busy, divorced, seeks male for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410635

SUE optimistic divorced lady with OHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches, looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467

CATHY very much a lady seeks gent up to 62yrs who would appreciate an independent professional sassy female who loves to be wined, dined and romanced. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410301

JOANNA slim attractive blue eyed blonde nurse, divorced with two teenagers, lots of love to give, looking for Mr Right, call me lets put the spark back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409097

WOULD you like to bounce into spring with me and onwards? Widow late 60's, enjoy most things in life, looking for someone to enjoy them with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411395

LINDA 37, green eyes, attractive, bubbly size 12, enjoys cosy nights in, text chats, seeking tallish fun guy for meals out, pubs, clubs and spending quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411033

CAROLINE 39yr old pretty blonde looking for handsome caring man to put the spark back into my life and make each other feel special. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411891

33YR old sick of being single working mum, OHAC, likes the simple things in life, looking for romantic, honest guy with GSOH for cosy nights in and fun nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411887

CINDY 31 attractive, size 12 brown eyed blonde, new to this but sick of passing up potential soul mate so thought I'd give it a go. ACA Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411873

RITA divorced care worker with no ties, 5ft 1ins, dark hair, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, seeking male 45-55 with GSOH and similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411775

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410709

BUSTY Caribbean lady who loves music, dance and singing, looking for nice older guy for mutual adult no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410305

BLONDE pretty, long legged, voluptuous, blue eyes, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410585

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit/ active, WLTN fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs. GSOH essential. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410717

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras.

mydate24

TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT2 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

EX headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263

MALE 49, 5ft 10ins, likes cinema, reading, walks, seeks female in the Thanel area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412235

BESIDE the Pointe. Literate self-possessing, leggy, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223

45YR old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship. Herne Bay area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993

PALM own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411127

BARRY divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412171

MALE seeking friendship of mature woman, smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412703

SINGLE young lady, slim-medium build, 24-38 sought by mature male in Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212

JAMES young, free and single, please give me a call if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412345

MALE 42, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309

RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit, male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

MALE 71, 5ft 10ins, medium build, N/S, likes gardening, dogs, seeks female, 65-71 for friendship/companionship and outings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411587

MALE 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477

DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433

JANE pretty size 12, loves going out socialising, countryside, meals out, looking for no strings fun, nothing heavy, give me a call if you are seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410579

SUE 32 blonde blue eyed curvy nurse, caring, loving romantic, faithful, likes cosy nights in with a nice wine and lovely man, if that's you, call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410571

RACHAEL 36yr old nurse looking to raise the temperature of reliable sincere male. I have my OACH, a single mum to 1, love gym, cosy meals, animals etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411045

SUSAN 29 green eyes, dark hair, slim, looking for Mr tall dark and handsome to take me out, enjoy adult times without complications just fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410957

KAREN blonde blue eyed slim 35yr old interesting female looking for good times, call me if I am in a similar situation, board and looking for some fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410719

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511

EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441

41YR old male, dark hair, 5ft 11ins, easy going, likes music, guitar, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410411

FIT full, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409745

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025



MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755

BROWN eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blue eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, films, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351

RETIRED male, fit, active, seeks no strings discreet meet with female, any age and size. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410343

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50's, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

STEVE 6ft 4ins, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homely, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355

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*EG send WINK 123456 to 80098

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MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189

TEXT: CHAT2 TO: 80098

START CHATTING TODAY! *TEXT: 80098 Cost £1.50/msg received, for full T&Cs see below

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533

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business

Supermarket depot sold in £98m property deal

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

MORRISONS staff at a major distribution centre in Sittingbourne have been told their jobs are safe after it was sold in a deal worth £97.8 million.

Investment fund Tritax Big Box REIT plc completed the sale this week – and immediately struck a deal with the struggling supermarket giant to lease the site back to it for the next 25 years.

It will cost Morrisons an initial annual rent of just over £5.4m a year, with annual rent increases capped at 2 per cent.

The move comes as part of a restructuring by the supermarket chain after it confirmed heavy £176m losses over the last year, with its market share being eroded by cut-price rivals such as Lidl and Aldi.

It has already confirmed some 2,600 jobs nationwide would have to be lost as a consequence of its poor performance.

Selling off the distribution site in Kemsley is seen as part of a financial



SOLD: Morrisons will lease site

reshuffle as it faces a challenging short term in a highly competitive marketplace.

Hundreds of staff are employed in Kemsley, but none are thought to be in danger of losing their jobs.

Tritax partner Colin Godfrey said: "The centre is extremely well located, facilitating the large-scale delivery of merchandise across the UK and Eu-

rope. It was chosen by Morrisons to be its strategic south east regional distribution centre for chilled and ambient general merchandise, and now serves 53 M Locals and 85 main supermarket stores from the Isle of Man to Ipswich."

Morrisons group property director Terry Hartwell added: "In addition to being one of the country's leading grocers and food producers, Morrisons is also the owner of a significant amount of real estate in the UK."

"As highlighted in our latest preliminary results, one of our objectives is to manage our properties more actively than we have historically, which involves monetising a small number of assets including our regional distribution centre in Sittingbourne."

The distribution warehouse was originally developed for Morrisons in 2009.

It incorporates two separate units on a site of 49.8 acres, with one being fully fitted as a chilled distribution unit.

The property estate investment firm took out a £53.8m loan with Barclays to finance the purchase.

Green light for Maidstone hotel

A 150-bedroom hotel in Maidstone has been given the green light by council planners.

The hotel at the Eclipse Park near to junction seven of the M20 will include a restaurant and conference facilities.

The building will be built by Gallagher Properties, part of the Maidstone-based Gallagher Group.

It will now open discussion with "a number of operators" interested in the site.

Primark opens new city store

POPULAR fashion retailer Primark opened its latest store in Kent this week with the unveiling of its Canterbury outlet.

It is in the former BHS building in the Marlowe Arcade, part of Whitefriars shopping complex.

Its opening, on Thursday, creates some 300 jobs.

The store was opened by the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Ann Taylor.

Ukip duo pressure aviation authority to save Manston

KENT Euro MPs Nigel Farage and Janice Atkinson have written to the Civil Aviation Authority urging it to keep Manston Airport open.

In a letter to chairwoman Dame Deirdre Hutton, the two Ukip MEPs, who live in Westerham and Chislehurst respectively, say the closure is "economically damaging to east Kent" and that the authority needs to invest in the site to ensure it has a viable future.

They say that to allow any other development would be "economic vandalism" that future generations would regard as "unforgivable" and insist that the site's owner, Ann Gloag, must not be allowed to profit by selling the airport to a public body at taxpayers' expense.

Thanet District Council is considering serving a compulsory purchase order on the airport – a legal function that can allow councils to acquire land without the permission of the owner if it is perceived to be for the greater good of the community.

The letter says: "We believe that the closure of Manston is short-sighted in the extreme – especially as Manston already has international traffic-handling facilities for both passengers and freight."

"Thanet is short of employment and one of the more deprived areas of the region – and every study has shown that there is a significant shortfall in runway capacity in south-east England."

"We believe that there must be no change of use of the site and that Manston's future – with judicious investment – must lie in aviation."

They have asked the authority to do "everything in its power" to oppose any change of use, reopen the airport, invest in it whatever money is necessary to make it work and insist that "no 'windfall' profits are won by the current owner effectively at taxpayers' expense".

Good News for Higher Rate Taxpayers!

Are you a Business Owner, Director or Partner running your own controlled limited company? Are you earning **£50,000 or more** every year in dividends and salary? If you answered **YES**, we have some **good news!** There is a way for you to **retain 82% of your income** having paid all the appropriate taxes!

Changes in the tax rules over the last few years now mean that there is a **considerable tax advantage** enjoyed by those who are taxed as self-employed compared to those who are taxed as employees.

The answer is closer than you may think, and it lies in **redefining your relationship with your business** with a consequent effect on the remuneration package you receive from it.

Business Owners and Directors deserve to see the results of their hard work in their pay packet, as they are the ones **creating**

jobs and helping to build the economy.

It is also a way of **retaining working capital** to assist the **growth of your business** or avoid relying unnecessarily on the business bank overdraft!

We can **assist Business Owners**, whether Directors or Partners, to benefit from this difference by structuring their remuneration so that it is taxable as income from self-employment.



If you would like to find out more, contact Donal Lucey Lawlor Chartered Accountants today! You can give us a call on 01303 230 587 or e-mail us at info@tts.co.uk. To learn more about business growth, follow us on Twitter at @DLLAccountants.

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New concept in education caters for aspiring teenagers

INNOVATIVE education for people aged 14-19 is being brought to your doorstep by Bromley College.

As the leading college in south-east London, Bromley College is working with a number of top employers and industry experts to create a new college for young people.

Its new Hospitality, Food & Enterprise College will offer those aged 14 to 19 the opportunity to study high-quality industry-focused vocational hospitality and catering qualifications, combined with core curriculum GCSEs.

A new concept in education, it will follow successful models seen in New York and Holland.

Supported by The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, and a number of top companies including the Dorchester Group, Hyatt, D&D London, The Modern Pantry, Hilton Hotels and Springboard, the college will offer a truly innovative way to gain the skills and qualifications employers need.

With entry points at ages 14 and 16, there really is something for everyone.

It's not just a career as a chef that is on offer; if you're great with people, then a front-of-house role, restaurant manager, barista, mixologist, hotel manager or receptionist position might just be the job for you.



FOCUS: College works with industry leaders

■ **Find out more**

Opening this September at the Orpington Campus, the college will feature new, state-of-the-art catering and training facilities, including kitchens, classrooms and a student-run restaurant in the town centre.

■ **Secure your place today**

Visit the college's Orpington Campus Open Event on Tuesday, June 24, from 4.30pm-7.30pm, to find out more and apply.



BEST PRACTICE: Motor technicians can now train locally, thanks to Automotive Training Ltd

Centre for technical excellence

HAVING worked with local garages for several years, the directors of Automotive Training Ltd have now opened up their own training centre to enable technicians to be assessed locally.

In the past, technicians had to travel quite a distance to reach the nearest ATA assessment centre, so this offering on the outskirts of Canterbury, in Chilham, offers a local solution, plus the bonus that the candidate can return home each evening, making it less stressful for the candidate and with no hotel bill for the employer.

The directors, Vaughan Meiklejohn and Nigel Banks, are pleased to announce the centre is now up and running and able to provide automotive technician accreditation (ATA) training and assessment for MET, panel, paint, light vehicle diagnostics and inspection routes, together with short courses in welding,

air-conditioning, diagnostic equipment and four-wheel alignment.

The feedback received so far has been very positive, with the most common comment being how friendly everyone is – the assessors try to make the candidates feel at ease, although it is recognised that it is a stressful experience for even the most skilled technicians.

To maintain the automotive industry, new recruits are needed all the time.

Automotive Training will be offering body and paint apprenticeship training from September. For advice on how to employ an apprentice or how to become an apprentice please contact us.

Dates of assessments and more information be found on the website, www.automotivetrainingltd.co.uk.

BROMLEY COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS

Exciting things are happening

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Orpington Campus

Tuesday 24 June

4.30pm - 7.30pm

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We also offer:

NVQ, VCQ or VRQ to technicians wanting to study and qualify in the workplace.

Are you a technician working in a garage and need a qualification?

Are you a garage owner who wants to ensure your technicians are up-to-date?

In the past technicians had to travel out of the county to get ATA assessment – there is now a local solution. Automotive Training Ltd offers a fully fitted Training and Assessment Centre on the outskirts of Canterbury (A28 between Canterbury and Ashford).

We can also offer training and short courses in:

- Air Conditioning (vehicle)
- Basic Welding (vehicles)
- Four wheel alignment
- Diagnostic tools
- Basic Car Maintenance

We are small and flexible – if you want a course run specifically for your technicians then we can accommodate you. If you are outsourcing because no-one knows how to use the equipment then training might be a better option.

Contact us on
01227 738208
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www.automotivetrainingltd.co.uk



College higher-education courses offer you the perfect alternative

STUDENTS upset about having to remain in education until they are 18 are being reminded that there is still a great alternative to school and university.

MidKent College is one of the biggest and best providers of further and higher education in the country, providing hundreds of courses that are free for all 16- to 18-year-olds.

From plumbing, electrical installation and sport to beauty therapy, catering, travel and tourism, a huge range of vocational courses is on offer in addition to A-levels.

The college, which has a new £86 million campus in Medway as well as another fully-refurbished campus in Maidstone that cost £20m to complete, attracts students of all abilities and from all walks of life.

Principal Sue McLeod said: "It is important young people understand that the raising of the participation age does not mean they have to stay at school – they can also escape to college."

"Many of our courses are vocational or occupational and our

links with local industries mean our students are more employable when they leave us than they would be if they stayed on at school.

"I strongly believe MidKent College has a course to suit everyone and facilities that are unrivalled by any other school or college in the county."

The Government has increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training, requiring them to continue until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18 from 2015.

This means pupils who started Year 11 or below in September 2013 will need to continue until at least their 18th birthday.

Meanwhile, students unsure if university is right for them are being urged to consider enrolling on a higher-education course at the college, which offers a number of Higher National Diplomas/Certificates and foundation degrees at just £5,950 a year – far less than the £9,000 maximum charged by some universities.

Students who enrol on a higher-

education course at the college are also guaranteed the highest quality of teaching within state-of-the-art premises, with all courses validated by the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University or Edexcel.

Courses are available in the following subjects: applied science, built environment, business, human resources, IT, education, engineering, entrepreneurship, health and social care, hospitality and event management, performing arts, security and sport and leisure management.

Director of HE development Stephen Batchelor said: "Money should not be a barrier to education, which is why we try to keep our course fees as low as possible."

"We have designed a series of qualifications that will provide people with the skills and abilities they need to be successful in building a career and gaining an edge in the ever-more crowded job market, making higher education a worthwhile long-term investment."

■ Visit www.midkent.ac.uk for more information.



PICTURE THIS: MidKent College has state-of-the-art campuses and facilities

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QUOTE:
SC8-KOS

The Inverness to the Kyle of Lochalsh line - as featured in Michael Palin's original Great Railway Journeys TV series - has spectacular views, passing Loch Carron, the Cullin Hills and the Isle of Skye - enjoy a return trip on the train and a visit to Skye. We also include a ride on the Strathspey Steam Railway; a visit to Loch Ness, with the option of a loch cruise; and a Highlands coach tour with a whisky distillery visit.

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Note: Attendance by the Queen and Prince Charles not guaranteed



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Escorted Rail or Fly Cruise
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Departs 3 August, 2014; 31 May & 28 June, 2015

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RH8/5/6-KOS

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Escorted Rail or Fly Cruise
5 days, semi-all-inclusive, from **£649pp**
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QUOTE:
RH10-KOS

This fun-packed Rhine cruise passes romantic hilltop castles and vineyards and visits historic riverside towns including Andernach, Rudesheim, Koblenz and Boppard where we see the Rhine in Flames festival. This spectacular pyrotechnics show features an illuminated flotilla of riverboats and curtains of fire bathing the riverbanks in a magical glow. We have chartered the mps Princess exclusively for our guests so you're assured a warm and friendly stay on board.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Rail travel from London St Pancras to Cologne (from Ebbsfleet on request) or flights with luggage from Gatwick - supp't may apply • 4 nights full-board cruise on the mps Princess sharing a twin bed outside cabin - upgrades available • Beer, wine & choice of 2 Dutch spirits served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Captain's dinner • Entertainment • Embarkation & departure transfers



DUTCH BULBFIELDS RIVER CRUISE

Escorted Rail or Fly Cruise
5 days, full board, from **£549pp**
Departs 24 April, 2015

QUOTE:
BF4-KOS

The highlight of this cruise is an included visit to Keukenhof Gardens with its magnificent floral displays. Amsterdam offers something for everyone, with its beautiful canals, famous museums, and flower markets. On board ship it is easy to relax and unwind while some of Holland's most historic and romantic scenery slips quietly by. Our river cruiser, the MV Prinses Christina, will host you in comfort and style with breakfast, lunch, dinner and late snacks included.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Rail travel from London St Pancras to Amsterdam (from Ebbsfleet on request) or flights with luggage from Gatwick - supp't may apply • 4-night full board cruise on the MV Prinses Christina sharing a twin bed outside standard cabin - upgrades available • Visit to Keukenhof Gardens • Transfers in Amsterdam



GRAND DANUBE 4-STAR RIVER CRUISE

Escorted Fly Cruise
9 days, from **£1099pp**
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QUOTE:
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INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports to Munich - supplement may apply • Overnight hotel B&B in Germany • 7 night full board cruise on the MS Serenity sharing a standard, en suite, outside twin bed cabin - upgrades available • Entertainment • Transfers Munich-Passau-Munich

Note: Price of Cruises and/or Holidays by Air subject to cabin and/or flight availability at time of booking - supplement may apply

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Update

Lexus CT200h

Price: £20,995
Driving appeal: **Not driven yet**
Image: ★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Best rival: **VW Golf BlueMotion**

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in...

KENT LIFE

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SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: Skoda's Tour de France specials add to what is already a very popular range – with the star being the Octavia

Tour highlights Skoda's past

The Czech car brand started out in bicycle manufacturing after being unimpressed by a German company's efforts. The rest, as they say, is history.

SIR Bradley Wiggins's victory in the 2012 Tour de France – the first Briton to pull off this feat – simply confirmed a growing love affair between the UK and the ultimate cycling test.

Significantly, this year's 3,664km Tour also starts here, in Leeds on July 5, and, if you follow the action through to the exciting finale in Paris on July 27, Skoda branding will never be far from your vision.

Skoda has been associated with cycling since co-founder Vaclav Klement bought a bicycle from a German manufacturer that, wait for it, then soon broke.

Thinking "I can do better than this", he teamed up with bike mechanic Vaclav Laurin and they began producing their own bicycles, later motorcycles, and then their first car in 1905, leading to the Skoda car brand.

But the cycling affinity never went away and the brand is currently the main sponsor of the Tour of Britain (Sept 7-14, 1,350km) while also celebrating the Tour de France with three limited editions to mark the first three race stages – all taking place in the UK.

The Tour de France (TdF) trio are versions of the Yeti, Octavia and Superb but not just badging exercises; each has adaptations with the keen cyclist in mind, complemented by 'le Tour de France' waterproof seat-



covers and bike-wheel bags, plus a centenary edition of the Rouleur Tour de France book and entry to a competition to win a VIP Tour de France experience.

Priced at £23,490, the Yeti TdF is based on the Outdoor SE 2.0-litre TDI 140PS 4x4 model.

Additional spec includes a sat-nav with DAB digital radio, keyless entry and start system, floor mats and internal bike rack.

The Superb TdF costs £28,490 and is based on the Estate Outdoor 2.0-litre TDI 140PS 4x4 and has the same enhancements as the Yeti, along with space-saver spare wheel and boot net programme.

Priced at £24,290, the Octavia TdF is based on the Estate SE 2.0-litre TDI 150PS 4x4 model. It has the same kit as the Yeti and Superb plus roof-bars and a roof-mounted bike-carrier instead of an internal one.

OK, just 198 examples of each car



are available here and you can only have the car in red, white or blue – the national colours of the UK and France – but it's clear the Czech brand's dealers will get a lot of foot traffic checking out the Yeti, Octavia and Superb ranges generally.

The brand always rides high in the customer-satisfaction polls, turning the tables on all those tired old Iron Curtain-era Skoda jokes.

Ironically, considering Vaclav Klement's experience with his German bike all those years ago, the brand has never looked back since Germany's VW started buying into the company in 1991.

Quickly reviving the Octavia model name with a smart new model based on the VW Golf, Skoda went on to produce a wide range of cars, from the aptly-named Citigo city car up to the Superb executive model.

But the Octavia – now in its third generation – remains the star. Priced from £16,310, it is available in hatchback or estate form – with the latter including an all-wheel-drive model. Keen drivers also have much respect for the vRS sporting variant (from £23,755).

Other view...

the Petrolhead

Grudgingly, I'll admit the vRS hits the spot, but I'm afraid that for me and my mates the Skoda badge still doesn't quite have it

She says

I'm still not sure about the badge, either, but I have to admit the cars look great for the money and have a fantastic reputation

the Eco-warrior

Skoda has been a big pioneer in eco motoring, with the Greenline series in particular showing the way to go on emissions and economy

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Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| i10 S 1.0 | |
| 24 Monthly Payments of | £95.00 |
| On The Road Price | £8,495.00 |
| Customer Deposit | £2,093.00 |
| Amount of Credit | £6,402.00 |
| Interest Charges | £670.50 |
| Optional Final Payment | £4,792.50 |
| Total Amount Payable | £9,165.50 |
| Fixed Rate of Interest | 3.04% p.a. |
| Duration of Agreement | 2 years |
| Annual Mileage | 10,000 |
| Excess Mileage Charge per mile | 14.9p |
| Representative APR | 5.9%* |



Model shown: i10 S 1.0 at £8,495 OTR in Pure White solid paint at no extra cost. On the road (OTR) price shown includes customer saving discount where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. *5.9% APR available on all Hyundai i10 models. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance (HMF) is a subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Finance Co., Ltd. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 3rd April and 30th June 2014, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i10 S 1.0: Urban 47.1 (6.0), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 60.1 (4.7), CO₂ Emissions 108 g/km.

Less Noddy car and more something for grown-ups, Nissan's popular motor has become a better-looking and comfortable supermini choice, feels **Steve Loader**

Nissan Micra 1.2 Tekna

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Price: | £13,000 |
| Driving appeal: | ★★★★ |
| Image: | ★★★★ |
| Space: | ★★★★ |
| Value: | ★★★★ |
| Running costs: | ★★★★ |
| Reliability: | ★★★★ |
| How green?: | ★★★★ |
| Road tax: | £30/year |
| Best rival: | Suzuki Swift |

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Little Micra does some growing up



SMALL WONDER: Nissan has given its popular Micra an overhaul – making it even more of an attractive proposition

Micra's chassis and handling is weighted more to comfort – keener drivers should check out the Suzuki Swift, another import from India. Overall, though, with the new and more purposeful front and back, plus much slicker cabin, the Micra can now take the fight to the opposition. Other points already in its favour were excellent manoeuvrability for city use – it has the best turning circle in its class – and good visibility out of a glassy and spacious cabin, offering decent headroom for this class of car. This also means that ultimate load space, at 1,132 litres, with rear seats down, is one of the highest, though its 265-litre boot space is

only middling for a supermini. The interior now features a new centre console, upgraded materials and higher equipment levels, while the new £500 NissanConnect navigation and communication system comes with a 5.8-inch touchscreen display. Prices are also attractive, starting from just above the psychologically important ten-grand mark for the entry-level Visia trim and yet still bringing equipment that cash-strapped young buyers want such as aux/USB connectivity and Bluetooth, six airbags and electric windows in the front as well as electronic stability control (ESP) – air-con is a £500 option, though.

Nevertheless, it's clear that most buyers will want mid-range Acenta spec (from £11,700), delivering greater style and generous creature comforts including alloys, climate control, 60/40-split folding rear seats, electric door-mirrors, cruise-control, auto lights, front fog lamps, height-adjustable driver's seat and leather-trimmed steering with audio controls. A five-speed manual gearbox is standard, on either 1.2-litre variant, with the £1,000 option of a CVT (continuously-variable transmission) auto box – a pricey way to generate a lot of noise and fuss that also robs the non-aspirated engine, in particular, of much power.

FirstGEAR

Motoring news



108 gets the boot

PEUGEOT is stressing the 57-litre advantage in boot space (196 litres) that its new 108 city car has over the paltry 139 capacity of its predecessor – the 107. Its inability to carry much in the way of luggage or even a modest supermarket shop without ejecting a passenger and folding a rear seat, was a sore point – especially when the VW UP city car and its sister clones arrived with 251 litres.



25 years of Disco

CELEBRATING its 25th anniversary, the Land Rover Discovery has new add-ons and trim levels for its 2015 Model Year. Some come from the distinctive XXV Special Edition anniversary car, but all versions now get the new Land Rover InControl Apps, enabling safe and efficient access to essential smartphone content and in-car apps from the vehicle's touchscreen. New SE also becomes the entry trim yet brings more standard features than before.



'Abarth of Abarths'

FIAT'S sporting arm, Abarth, has revamped its racy little 500 hatchback in the wake of the prestigious Gumball 3000. The endurance road trip featured some of the most exotic supercars on its UK leg, but a fleet of little Abarths drew big cheers, too. It also marked the scorching 190bhp 695 Biposto's debut; this "most Abarth of all Abarths" has a maximum of 143mph and a 0-62mph of just 5.9 seconds

NISSAN took a long hard look at its Micra supermini last year and gave it a shake-up. And it had to, because the supermini sector has got really tough, especially as the downsizing trend has stepped up. There are some impressive value offerings, too, such as the Skoda Fabia and Suzuki Swift and that Korean duo, the Hyundai i20 and Kia Rio. To counter these, the Micra's Noddy and Toytown front end has gone, while the interior also had a major makeover to make it more competitive. Past Micras have been big hitters for the Japanese brand in the UK, especially as the distinctively-styled generations two and three were built at the brand's highly successful Sunderland plant, but tight profit margins in small cars means production of the current five-door-only generation was exported to low-labour-cost India. That kept prices sensible when it arrived in 2010, but it initially failed to have the market impact of its two predecessors.

However, it has had a potential ace up its sleeve for a while, in the form of the 98PS (97bhp) supercharged DIG-S version of the 1.2-litre petrol engine that runs across the range. Previous test drives show this delivers decent performance when required and, providing your right foot doesn't abuse that, also keeps fuel consumption sensible. If you avoid the fairly charmless CVT auto, you also escape road tax due to the engine's 99g/km of CO2 emissions. Our test car, though, was the standard 80PS (78bhp) 1.2-litre, which is flexible enough yet perhaps lacks that bit of fire you need when emerging from a junction to exploit a gap in traffic.

On the other hand, Nissan does charge a hefty £1,100 premium to let you upgrade to the DIG-S. Whichever version you choose, though, it must be stressed that the

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†0% APR representative Solutions Personal Contract Plan offer available on selected new ŠKODA models with deposits from 0-30% subject to underwriting. *£145 monthly rate applies to Octavia Hatch 5 1.2 TSI 105PS only. OTR cash price £16,310. £4,689 deposit required to achieve advertised monthly payment based on 3 years and 10,000 miles per annum; optional final payment £6,546. Deposit shown may be higher than the minimum; a lower deposit will result in increased monthly payments. Indemnities may be required, subject to status. **3 years or 30,000 miles (whichever comes sooner) when purchased with ŠKODA Solutions Personal Contract Plan, terms and conditions apply. Over 18s in mainland UK only. Excludes Channel Islands. ŠKODA Finance, Freeport ŠKODA Finance. Terms and conditions apply. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders to assist with your purchase, who may pay us for introducing you to them. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time and are not available in conjunction with any other offer. Retail sales only. Participating retailers only. Subject to availability on orders placed before 30th September 2014. Model shown is an Octavia SE with optional metallic paint (£525), 18" Golus alloys (£700) and Bi-Xenon headlights (£1,190). Model shown may vary from UK specification.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA Octavia Range: Urban 34.9 (8.1) to 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 52.3 (5.4) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 44.1 (6.4) to 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions 149 to 85g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.



FLEXIBLE: Motability buyers have the same choices as any able-bodied person, from a practical Peugeot 2008 to a supermini like the Renault Clio

Liberation through Motability

DISABLED people and their families have had their lives revolutionised by the Motability scheme.

The Government-backed operation enables them to get on the road for much less than it would cost to buy or lease a new or nearly-

new car privately and helps them with potentially costly adaptations for controls or wheelchair access.

On top of that, the scheme's regular payments can take care of everyday running costs, from insurance, maintenance and

repairs to breakdown assistance – a huge reassurance when the cost of motoring is soaring.

What is more, Motability does not insist the disabled person is the driver; the car is made available for the benefit of that person, which

means that up to two other named drivers can be on the car's insurance cover instead of the disabled person.

■ For more about this liberating scheme for disabled people, see inside this special supplement.

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Motability: all you need to know...

UP to two nominated drivers can drive a Motability vehicle, but the disabled person qualifying for the scheme does not have to be one of them.

The drivers may be friends or relatives, and parents or carers can apply on behalf of a child aged three or older.

The car only has to be used for the benefit of the disabled person, such

as a shopping trip or collecting a prescription – they don't even have to be in the car. A third insured driver can be added for a small payment.

If you receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, you can apply for a Motability lease by exchanging part or all of that allowance.

Motability is a worry-free package that includes:

- a choice of some 2,000 car models
- insurance, servicing and maintenance
- RAC breakdown assistance
- road tax
- tyre and windscreen replacement
- 60,000-mileage allowance

over three years.

Car dimensions vary: seat height, door-opening angle and storage space for wheelchairs and equipment can all affect whether the car works for you and your particular disability or not, but your local dealer can take you through a questionnaire designed to ensure the car and Motability are right for you.

Many special adaptations are

available free to help with speed and steering, signalling and safety, stowage and seating and access.

The Motability package continues to the end of your three-year lease, with a seamless transfer to your new car.

About 600,000 customers choose Motability and 97 per cent say they would recommend the scheme to their friends.



MOTABILITY MOBILITY STARS: From left... the smart and capacious Kia Carens, versatile Vauxhall Meriva MPV and the no-nonsense Skoda Fabia cover all the bases for prospective users

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To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance, War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP). Advance Payment (AP) valid for applications to Motability until 30 September 2014. Models shown are Citigo 3 door SE 1.0 MPI 60PS manual with optional metallic paint (£490), Style Pack 2 with 15" Auriga alloys and temporary spare wheel (£550) and Winter Pack incl. front fog lights, heated front seats and electrically adjustable door mirrors (£300). Fabia Hatch shown is SE 1.2 12V 69PS manual with optional metallic paint (£525), black protective side moulding (£50), 16" Elba alloy wheels (£230), front fog lights (£170). Model shown is a Rapid Spaceback 1.2 TSI 86PS manual with optional metallic paint (£525), protective side mouldings (£75), panoramic glass roof (£700) and 17" Camelot alloy wheels (£600). Rapid shown is Elegance 1.2 TSI 105PS manual with optional metallic paint (£525) and protective side moulding (£75). Roomster shown is 1.2 12V 69PS manual with optional metallic paint (£525), front fog lights (£170), black roof rails (£230) and black protective side moulding (£50). Octavia shown is Elegance 1.6 TDI 105PS manual with optional metallic paint (£525), bi-xenon headlights, AFS and LED daytime running lights (£1,190) and 18" Golus alloy wheels (£350). Yeti shown is Outdoor Elegance 1.2 TSI 105PS manual with optional metallic paint (£525) and part-silver roof rails (£160). Superb shown is Elegance 2.0 TDI 140PS manual with optional metallic paint (£525). Selected models only available from stock. Models shown are not UK specification. Urban 21.7 (13.0) to 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 30.4 (9.3) to 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA range 217 to 85g/km. Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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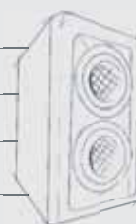


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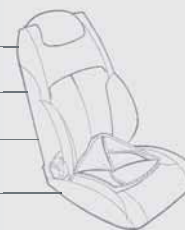


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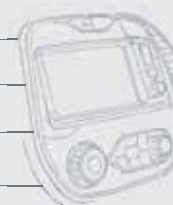


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BOOK A TEST DRIVE



The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: Urban 62.8 (4.5)–70.6 (4); Extra Urban 72.4 (3.9)–88.3 (3.2); Combined 68.9 (4.1)–83.1 (3.4). The official CO₂ emissions are 105–90g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary with driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

Advance payment offers are only valid for Motability applications to 30 June 2014 and are correct at time of going to press. Motability is a trademark of Motability. Registered charity number 299745.



DO YOUR RESEARCH: Motability's own website function can help find the best car for your needs, be it the chunky but exceptionally functional Skoda Yeti, left, or Renault's funky Scenic MPV

MOTABILITY'S range of more than 2,000 vehicles can seem daunting. Fortunately, the scheme's website has a search function allowing users to quickly create a short-list of comparable cars, taking account of buying parameters, mixing typical consumer searches and the specialist needs of Motability users.

Search by car details takes a consumer-style approach and includes:

- what kind of mobility allowance the user has
- what level of advance payment the user intends to pay, if anything
- preferred car type, make, model and number of doors
- whether the user wants a manual, semi-automatic or automatic gearbox
- whether the driver is under 25

Zoom in on the right car

There are two other search programmes: Search by Accessibility Needs, taking account of car measurements; and Search for a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle.

There is also excellent advice on what type of car to look for, in language more relevant to disabled users, such as:

- how smaller two- to three-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles that may make access easier but may be both harder to close generally and harder to open wide in narrow parking spaces.
- how hatchbacks have a raise-up rear door or 'hatch', which could make it harder for a wheelchair-user to open/ close or access items, or simply be problematic when opening in the garage.
- extra space in estate cars can be more convenient for a disabled person as the load area may be used to carry disability aids, but the vehicles can be longer and bulkier.

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MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.
*£499 and Nil Advance payment subject to availability and on selected models only. Offer available on cars ordered by 30th June 2014. Information and offers correct at time of going to press. Models shown for illustrative purposes only. For full terms & conditions, please contact the Peugeot Motability line on 0845 945 5466. Calls may be recorded for training purposes.

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SMALL CARS: Tend to have lower advance payments, running costs and CO2 emissions than larger vehicles. Two- to three-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles, which makes access easier, but closing the door and fitting in narrow parking spaces may be harder. Four- to five-door cars benefit from superior back-seat access – useful if you often have more than one passenger.

MEDIUM CARS: Are often sold as hatchbacks and will have a slightly

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bulk, so make sure you check it out with a test drive before committing.

MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLES (MPV): Ranging from small to large, MPVs can seat up to nine people. The seats are higher, with more headroom, legroom and width. Some have large sliding side doors, which obviously improve access for those with disabilities.

SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES (SUV) AND 4X4: The term '4x4' is usually used to describe vehicles

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COUPÉS, ROADSTERS AND CABRIOLETS: Coupés are small and sporty-looking, seating either two or four people, but may be compromised for disabled users due to their two-door format, low-down and cramped

seating and smaller boots.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES (WAVS): WAVs are cars converted to carry passengers travelling in their wheelchair or those who wish to drive from a wheelchair. WAVs may be best if you have trouble getting in and out of the car from your wheelchair and would prefer to remain in it when travelling as a passenger. WAVs come in different sizes and have many standard features. The Motability website has a specific WAV Search.

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For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

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STUDENT SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Full Time and Part Time hours available (from 20 hours up to 43 per week),
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Student Support Assistants are responsible for enabling students to learn, promoting their independence and helping them achieve. Valence is looking for committed Student Support Assistants. The job is carried out in classrooms and in the residential setting and involves supporting students' communication, providing physical management and personal care.

Successful applicants will have a relevant Level 3 qualification or be supported to complete the Children's Workforce Diploma at Level 3.

Kent Scheme Band 3 (pro-rata)

£14,963- £16,468 full time equivalent (£7.76 - £8.54 per hour) plus final salary pension

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Keyworkers are responsible for co-ordinating all aspects of personal development and individual progress for a group of key students. Valence is looking for dedicated Keyworkers, to support students in the classroom and in the residential setting, including providing physical management and personal care, enabling students to learn, promoting their independence and helping them achieve. Keeping comprehensive records is a key part of the job.

Successful applicants will have a relevant Level 3 qualification.

Kent Scheme Band 5 (pro-rata)

£17,303 - £19,031 full time equivalent (£8.97 - £9.87 per hour) plus final salary pension

LUNCHTIME SUPPORT WORKERS

Part Time - Mon to Fri, 12 noon to 14.00 (during school terms),

Working Term Time Only, Initially one year fixed term contract.

We require a team of staff to support students during the lunch period with their personal care and eating and drinking needs.

Kent Scheme Band 3 (pro-rata)

£14,963- £16,468 full time equivalent (£7.76 - £8.54 per hour) plus final salary pension

Valence School is a Kent County Council foundation all age residential and day school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

Valence School is a supportive environment and a rewarding place to work. Every member of staff participates in enabling the students to learn and to aspire to achieve meaningful independence.

Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every student.

We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate.

For further information and an application form, please contact HR Department.
Previous applicants need not apply.

Please note the closing date for applications is Monday 30th June 2014
Interviews Thursday 10th July 2014

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PLANNING



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0703/SH* - Shakespeare Centre 145 - 147 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2DA - External alterations to the building and erection of a first floor single storey extension to south west elevation, together with the change of use and conversion from offices to 6 No. residential flats under a class J prior notification application.

Y14/0684/SH - Flat 1 40 Castle Hill Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2RE - Installation of replacement uPVC windows to lower ground floor bay window.

Y14/0705/SH - 7 Earls Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2HW - Felling of a self set Sycamore Tree and reduction in height to 1.6 metres of a row of trees subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 20 of 2013.

Y14/0682/SH - The Manor House Five Vents Lane Old Romney Romney Marsh Kent - Listed Building Consent for replacement of existing weatherboard to west elevation to include introduction of insulation.

Y14/0663/SH - 74 Tontine Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1JP - Installation of a replacement shopfront together with other external alterations in connection with the creation of a self contained flat.

Y14/0662/SH - 42 Tontine Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1JU - Installation of replacement doors together with other external alterations to the facade.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES



AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2013/14 - SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Audit Commission Act 1998, sections 15-16

Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011
Regulations 9, 10, 21, 22 & 24

The council's accounts are subject to external audit by Grant Thornton UK LLP of Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, London NW1 2EP. Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

- 1) From Tuesday 8th July 2014 to Monday 4th August 2014 between 9.00am and 4.30pm weekdays any person may inspect the accounts of the council for the year ended 31 March 2014 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts) at the address given below. They may also make copies of the accounts and documents.
- 2) From Tuesday 5th August 2014 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the council, or his/her representative, may ask the auditor questions about the accounts. Please contact the auditor Emily Hill at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.
- 3) From Tuesday 5th August 2014 until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of the council, or his/her representative, may object to the council's accounts asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest (under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998) and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law (under section 17 of the Audit Commission Act 1998). Written notice of a proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made must be sent to the auditor Emily Hill at the address given above and copied to me at the address given below.

Odetta Collard-Woolmer, Head of Finance,
Shepway District Council,
Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY.
Contact telephone no: (01303) 853371

14 June 2014

MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 APPLICATION FOR PLACEMENT OF ROCK REVETMENT

Notice is hereby given that NETWORK RAIL (HIGH SPEED) has applied to the Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake place rock revetment at the piers of Medway viaduct. Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Vincent Jasper, Information Centre, Community Hub Rochester, East Gate, High Street, ME1 1EW.

Copies of the Application and associated information may be viewed on line in the Public Register at www.marinemanagement.org.uk/publicregister.

Representations or objections in respect of the application should be made in writing, giving an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent, to the Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH, or alternatively emailed to dee.allen@marinemanagement.org.uk, within 28 days of Week ending 15th June 2014, quoting reference MLA/2014/00223.

The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

Where to find more information: Vincent Jasper, Information Centre, Community Hub Rochester, East Gate, High Street, ME1 1EW

Date that first notice was published: Week Ending 15th June 2014

Public Notice Canterbury City Council licensing of sex establishments.

The Bing, 11, Dover Street, Canterbury CT1 3HD. We, Canongate Enterprises LLP of 84, High Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1JJ, hereby give notice that we have applied to Canterbury City Council under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for a licence to use the premises referred to above as a sexual entertainment venue.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Business Support Team, between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above: giving in general terms the grounds of objection by 08/07/2014

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One of cricket's true greats is still fired by love of the game

There aren't many genuine icons in sport, but West Indian legend The Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers is without doubt one of them. Here he shares his views on cricket's past, present and future with **David Mairs**.

SOMETIMES you get to speak to someone who you can only really refer to as sporting royalty.

Sir Garfield Sobers is one of those people. The honours and accolades are too many to list, so we'll suffice here with his status as a National Hero Of Barbados, his naming in 2000 as one of the five Wisden Cricketers Of The [20th] Century and, of course, his knighthood.

He is one of the greatest and most revered cricketers the world has seen.

And in August he will be at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells to share his experiences of the great game, which he graced at first-class level from 1953-74.

He played 93 Tests for the West Indies, for whom he scored more than 8,000 runs and took 235 wickets – he was the consummate all-rounder and captained the side from 1965-72.

He also skippered the Rest of the World (formed to compensate Test-playing countries for the absence of South Africa during their apartheid ban) and Nottinghamshire, so how did a player expected to do so much with both bat and ball cope with that potential extra pressure?

"I never thought it would affect my game," he said. "The captaincy makes you concentrate much more because you have more responsibility – you're leading your team or your country."

"I had to go out and perform when things weren't going well – and I thought I did that. You think more about what you're doing and don't make the silly mistakes you do when you're just a player."

One of the distinguishing features of Sir Garfield's bowling was that he wasn't limited in his style. He wasn't a fast bowler, he wasn't a seam bowler – instead, he did the lot. This giant of the game could bowl pace, seam or spin.



“The captaincy makes you concentrate more because you have much more responsibility – you’re leading your team or your country”

"It depends how good you are... if you have the ability. You're just adapting to the conditions. I was orthodox left-arm before bowling really fast in Tests – I didn't start out with pace," he said.

"It's also how much you want to do for the team and if you want to put in the extra time – I was brought up in that kind of a way as a young boy."

"I wanted to be in the game, to be doing something all of the time – not just standing there wondering."

West Indies have enjoyed cyclical success in the Test arena, perhaps like most countries, but to many cricket fans of a certain vintage the decline of this once-dominant force since the early 1990s is, in the genuine sense of the word, sad.

Batsmen such as Gordon Greenidge, Clive Lloyd, Alvin Kallicharran and Sir Viv Richards, along with some of the most fearsome fast bowl-

ers the game has witnessed – remember Malcolm Marshall, Andy Roberts, Michael Holding and Joel Garner? – spark wonderful memories flooding back, but whether any such heights can ever be hit again is perhaps open to doubt.

Any number of words have been written about the influence of baseball and basketball – all those satellite dishes pointed towards the United States, apparently – but Sir Garfield doesn't see things so bleakly.

"One thing you must understand is that it doesn't take much for a team to not look as good as they were – it can only take two or three matches."

"It's once in a lifetime that so many players of that ability come together. It happens in every era – you have a lot of individuals who play at a very high level – and it will happen again."

"Because the stall was set so high, it meant that even if the players that followed performed to a quarter of that level, it was obvious. That is the difference."

"If a team was not that great or ahead of the others, it doesn't get noticed when there's a lesser group of players following."

"So it's quite understandable that people thought the West Indies had deteriorated so badly from the 1980s and 90s, but it was impossible to have a team that even came close to what had gone before."

Sir Garfield does, nevertheless, accept that the decline was real.

"Now we have gone backwards and we have deteriorated."

"We have the players – it's a matter of getting them organised, of getting the ability they have to come forward. But it hasn't happened yet – I don't understand why it doesn't seem to have clicked."

"Who knows, the day might come when it clicks and people will see what is there – they have a lot of players with lots of ability."

It is in the newest form of the game, Twenty20, where West Indies have enjoyed success, however, becoming ICC world champions in 2012.

Something to be celebrated, certainly, but perhaps part of the problem, too.

"It's totally different now," said Sir Garfield. "The players of today have to take part in Twenty20, 50-over games and Test cricket. It's in and out from one form to another – it's not consistent."

"In the past, there was just Test cricket, four-day matches and three-day matches – we were building all the time."

"It's a different game completely now, with so many different styles. It's switch and change, switch and change, switch and change – it must be difficult. You can't really commit to any kind of progress."

Twenty20 tends to polarise opinion, but Sir Garfield offers a measured approach to its charms.

“Other things, though, have taken away from what the game used to be like for players such as Sir Don Bradman, Denis Compton and me”

"I enjoy watching it because it's pure entertainment, but it's not really cricket in the true sense of the game. And it helps clubs at the turnstiles – without it, a lot of them might go out of circulation as not many people seem to want to watch four-day cricket."

It's good to know the views of a man who has achieved so much in his sport and you wonder which of his numerous honours he cherishes the most. That place in Wisden's top five cricketers of last century, perhaps?

"In cricketing terms, you would say that, yes, and it covers a long time, with all of the players, but when you've received a knighthood it's not just about the cricket – it's not about the fifties and the hundreds."

"It's about how you carry yourself, conduct yourself and behave. About respect. All of that is taken into consideration – when you're honoured in that way, it must be higher."

As a National Hero Of Barbados, Sir Garfield is to be addressed in his home country as The Right Excellent. How does that work in practice, especially in conjunction with the knighthood?

"I don't think a lot of people in England understand it, but the government who honoured me would address me as that. With the knighthood, it's The Right Excellent Sir."

Now, as titles go, that takes some beating, although Sir Garfield points out that Sir Viv Richards carries the same address in Antigua.

Giants of the game, both, but what does this particular one make of today's game?

"There are one or two pluses, but not a lot. TV review is ideal for run-outs, stumpings and low catches, but I'm not convinced about the technology for LBWs and catches behind."

"Other things, though, have taken away from what the game used to be like for players such as Sir Don Bradman, Denis Compton and me."

"Covered wickets, the bowler's front-foot rule, only two men behind square, two bouncers an over, two full tosses and you're removed from the attack, helmets for fielding at bat-pad... I don't see how you can make comparisons with yesteryear. There are completely different rules."



Shakey double opens up big lead in championship

SITTINGBOURNE rider Shane 'Shakey' Byrne opened up a hefty 45-point lead in the MCE Insurance British Superbike Championship with a double victory at Snetterton at the weekend.

Byrne took his second win after Milwaukee Yamaha's Josh Brookes crashed out while battling the Kent triple champion for the lead.

The Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki racer is now on 145 points after his commanding performance at the Norfolk circuit, trailed by James Ellison (Lloyds British GBmoto Racing Kawasaki) on 100 and Brookes (Milwaukee Yamaha) on 85 points.

The fourth round of the championship runs from Friday to Sunday, June 27-29, at Knockhill in the only Scottish round of the year.

Byrne last won the title in 2012.



DOUBLE DELIGHT: Shane Byrne's double at Snetterton secured the Sittingbourne ace a 45-point lead in the British Superbike Championship



Then, Sir Garfield, with a touch of steel in his voice, turned the issue to me.

"How can you make comparisons?" he asked and demanded an answer to show there was nothing rhetorical in his question.

The principles were still the same, I ventured. Cricket was a contest between batsman and bowler, with fielders there to assist the bowler.

"You cannot say that," he said and repeated himself several times.

"It's not as simple as that. You used to be able to bowl with the field you wanted, the batsman would have to hook without a helmet and with the chance of getting quite badly hurt, a swing bowler could have four behind square whereas now he has to concentrate on off stump and is allowed

just two behind square – and that's a big area to cover."

Sir Garfield was the first man to hit six sixes in an over and his unbeaten 365 against Pakistan in 1958 stood for 36 years as the game's highest Test score, but he was an all-rounder. Hence his upset at the bowler's lot might seem a little surprising.

"The bowlers are under a lot more pressure than the batsmen now," he said. "Covers were brought in because of finances – they stopped you losing so much play to rain – but think of [Kent's] Derek Underwood and the way he could bowl on wet wickets. Remember when he bowled out Australia – do you think that could happen in this day and age?"

"You cannot just say that the game

now is the bowler, the batsman and the fielder."

Although he assured me otherwise and I'm sure it was just the passion he still clearly holds for the game, Sir Garfield sounded a little cross and I felt as though I'd been ticked off just a touch.

The honour was all mine.

■ **An Evening With Sir Garfield Sobers is at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Wednesday, August 13, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £19.50 (booking fee applies); phone 01892 530613 or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**

■ **If you would like to book Sir Garfield as an after-dinner speaker, phone Jack Hayes on 01509 852927 or visit champions-speakers.co.uk.**

Tredwell loaned to Sussex... but will still play for Kent

KENT off-spinner James Tredwell is joining Sussex on loan for a month... but only in LV= County Championship matches.

In an unusual situation, 'Tricky Treddy' will still be playing for Kent Spitfires in the T20 Blast and Royal London Cup.

The loan period started on Saturday, June 14, and can be extended.

On the other side of the coin, Tredwell can also be recalled if Kent suffer injury problems – the agreement of the ECB would be needed for this to be actioned.

Tredwell said after the news was released: "I am delighted to be provided with this opportunity to play championship cricket.

"I am looking forward to joining up with Sussex at Arundel but also continuing to play a part in Kent's good T20 Blast campaign."



MOVE: James Tredwell

Dartford are spared the Skrill drop

DARTFORD have escaped relegation from The Skrill (Conference) Premier thanks to financial issues at another club, Salisbury City.

The Darts had finished last season third from bottom, seven points from safety, and were preparing for life in The Skrill South.

However, they were reprieved when Salisbury City were expelled from the league's top flight due to financial problems.

The expulsion followed a similar situation at Hereford United, who were relegated because of their own issues and effectively allowed Cheltenham City, who had finished fourth from bottom, to avoid the drop.

The Dartford board gave its response to the reprieve via a statement on the club website:

"The manner in which Dartford Football Club retained its place in the Conference Premier may not have been as satisfying for the club and supporters as it might have been but it is fair and just nevertheless.

"Whilst enormous sympathy must be felt for countless supporters and backroom staff who do so much to keep community football alive, clubs at any level which do not meet their financial or governance responsibilities – whether by accident or design – can find advantage over those that do."

Gillingham Ladies join the Priestfield set

GILLINGHAM Football Club are taking over "the management and day to day running" of the Gillingham Ladies team.

Gills chairman Paul Scally said: "I was invited to watch their match versus Coventry in May and I have to say I was very pleasantly surprised by the quality of the game and the players' technical ability.

"Despite the result, I could see there has been a huge improvement in the standard of football in the women's game overall.

"I had in my mind that I wanted to provide our own Ladies team out of the club, but after being approached by the Gillingham Ladies FC management about working closer together, it soon became clear that this is the most sensible option."

County trio miss out in world cup

KENT players Barry Middleton, Dan Fox and Ashley Jackson were to be disappointed in the Hockey World Cup as they lost 1-0 to hosts The Netherlands in their semi-final.

They then lost to Argentina 2-0 in the third-place play-off.

Australia beat The Netherlands 6-1 in the final.

Sorry Kent collapse to innings defeat

KENT suffered a dismal defeat in their LV= County Championship Division Two match against Glamorgan at Cardiff on Wednesday.

The margin of an innings and 11

runs was a fair reflection of the way in which they had been outplayed.

Kent were dismissed in their second innings for 263 and are now third from bottom in the table.



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| 13/63 1.0 MPI 60 Sport 5dr Deep Black under 3,000 miles | £8,995 |
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| 13/13 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr DSG Candy White under 9,000 miles | £11,995 |
| 14/14 1.6 TDI 75 SE Estate 5dr Delivery Mileage Denim Blue | £10,995 |
| 11/11 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr Estate DSG Corrida Red under 37,000 miles | £10,995 |
| 12/62 1.2 TSI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate DSG Black Magic Pearl under 32,000 miles | £9,995 |
| 11/60 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr, DSG Race Blue under 40,000 miles | £9,750 |
| 11/11 1.2 TSI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate Corrida Red under 22,000 miles | £9,695 |
| 11/61 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr Estate DSG Spirit Yellow under 14,000 miles | £8,995 |
| 14/14 1.2 12V 69 Special Edition 5dr Brilliant Silver Delivery Mileage | £8,695 |
| 14/14 1.2 12V 69 Special Edition 5dr Denim Blue Delivery Mileage | £8,695 |
| 10/60 1.2 12V 69 Elegance 5dr Rosso Brunello under 5,000 miles | £7,995 |
| 12/61 1.4 MPI 16V SE 5dr Corrida Red under 15,000 miles | £7,995 |
| 10/10 1.6 TDI Elegance 5dr Estate Metal Grey under 48,000 miles | £7,795 |
| 12/61 1.2 TSI 86 SE 5dr Corrida Red under 27,000 miles | £7,650 |
| 10/10 1.4 TDI 80 Level 3 5dr Hatchback Rosso Brunello Metallic under 23,000 miles | £6,995 |

ŠKODA Rapid

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| 13/63 Spaceback 1.2 TSI 105 SE 5dr Candy White under 3,000 miles | £14,995 |
| 13/63 Spaceback 1.2 TSI 105 SE 5dr Candy White under 1,000 miles | £13,995 |

ŠKODA Yeti

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| 10/60 2.0 TDI CR Elegance 4x4 5dr Aqua Blue under 44,000 miles | £15,695 |
| 11/61 2.0 TDI 110 SE Plus 5dr Corrida Red under 31,000 miles | £14,995 |
| 10/60 2.0 TDI 110 S 5dr Black Magic under 12,000 miles | £12,995 |
| 12/61 1.2 TSI 105 S 5dr Steel Grey under 18,000 miles | £11,995 |

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| 13/13 1.6 TDI 90 SE 5dr Brilliant Silver under 3,000 miles | £10,695 |
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ŠKODA Octavia

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| 13/13 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate Cappuccino under 10,000 miles | £14,995 |
| 10/60 2.0 TDI 170 vRS 5dr Hatchback Candy White under 35,000 miles | £12,895 |

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| 11/11 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Pacific Blue under 13,000 miles | £12,495 |
| 12/12 1.6 TDI 105 SE Plus 5dr Petrol Blue Metallic under 35,000 miles | £10,995 |
| 10/10 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Hatchback Meteor Grey under 37,000 miles | £10,695 |
| 10/60 1.2 TSI 105 S 5dr DSG Auto Storm Blue under 9,000 miles | £9,495 |

ŠKODA Superb

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| 13/63 2.0 TDI 170 Outdoor Estate 4x4 5dr Black Magic under 4,000 miles | £22,995 |
| 11/61 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate Steel Grey under 32,000 miles | £16,495 |
| 11/11 1.8 TSI 160 Elegance 5dr DSG Brilliant Silver under 36,000 miles | £11,895 |

ŠKODA Estate

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| 13/63 Superb 2.0 TDI 170 Outdoor Estate 4x4 5dr Black Magic under 4,000 miles | £22,995 |
| 11/61 Superb 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate Steel Grey under 32,000 miles | £16,495 |
| 13/13 Octavia 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate Cappuccino under 10,000 miles | £15,495 |
| 14/14 Fabia 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr Estate DSG Corrida Red under 37,000 miles | £10,995 |
| 14/14 Fabia 1.6 TDI 75 SE Estate 5dr Denim Blue Delivery Mileage | £10,995 |
| 12/62 Fabia 1.2 TSI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate DSG Black Magic Pearl under 32,000 miles | £9,995 |
| 11/11 Fabia 1.2 TSI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate Corrida Red under 22,000 miles | £9,695 |
| 11/61 Fabia 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr Estate DSG Sprint Yellow under 14,000 miles | £8,995 |
| 10/10 Fabia 1.6 TDI Elegance 5dr Estate Metal Grey under 48,000 miles | £7,795 |

DSG/Automatics

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| 11/61 Superb 2.0 TDI 170 160 Elegance 5dr Estate DSG Steel Grey under 32,000 miles | £16,495 |
| 13/13 Octavia 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate Cappuccino under 10,000 miles | £14,995 |
| 13/13 Fabia 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr DSG Candy White under 9,000 miles | £11,995 |
| 11/11 Superb 1.8 TSI 160 Elegance 5dr DSG Brilliant Silver under 36,000 miles | £11,895 |
| 11/11 Fabia 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr Estate DSG Corrida Red under 37,000 miles | £10,995 |
| 12/62 Fabia 1.2 TSI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate DSG Black Magic Pearl under 32,000 miles | £9,995 |
| 11/60 Fabia 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr DSG Race Blue under 40,000 miles | £9,750 |
| 13/13 Citigo 1.0 MPI 75 Elegance 5dr Auto Brilliant Silver under 4,000 miles | £9,495 |
| 10/60 Octavia 1.2 TSI 105 S 5dr DSG Auto Storm Blue under 9,000 miles | £9,495 |
| 11/61 Fabia 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr Estate DSG Spirit Yellow under 14,000 miles | £8,995 |

Demonstrators

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| 13/63 Superb 2.0 TDI 170 Outdoor Estate 4x4 5dr Black Magic under 4,000 miles | £22,995 |
| 13/13 Octavia 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Estate Cappuccino under 10,000 miles | £14,995 |
| 13/63 Spaceback 1.2 TSI 105 SE 5dr Candy White under 3,000 miles | £14,995 |
| 13/63 Spaceback 1.2 TSI 105 SE 5dr Candy White under 1,000 miles | £13,995 |
| 13/13 Fabia 1.4 TSI vRS 180 5dr, DSG Candy White under 9,000 miles | £11,995 |
| 13/63 Citigo 1.0 MPI 60 Sport 5dr Deep Black under 3,000 miles | £8,995 |

Other makes

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| 12/62 Audi A3 2.0 TDI 140 S-Line 3dr Silver under 15,000 miles | £16,695 |
| 13/13 Fiesta 1.5 TDCI Style 3dr, Air Con, Panther Black under 6,000 miles | £9,695 |

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